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Iranian films on our screen

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June CPI jumps 1.1%

By DAVID HARRIS

The June consumer price index increased by a far higher-than-expected 1.1 percent, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

The CPI rose 5% in the first half of the year, suggesting 1997 inflation will approach the government's upper limit of 10%, but economists now believe the annual figure will go into double figures.

"This is what you might call a dollar index," said Bureau spokesman David Neumann, commenting on the shekel's June devaluation after the Bank of Israel changed the exchange rate mechanism.

See CPI, Page 2

Australian delegation decides to stay

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The Australian Maccabiah contingent has decided to stay on for the games, despite the death of two of its members.

Twenty-eight Australian and Austrian sportsmen injured in the Maccabiah bridge collapse are receiving treatment in four hospitals, with seven in serious condition.

The decision was taken following a meeting with President Ezer Weizman, who urged them to remain, participate "and win as many medals as possible."

Team organizer Harry Purcell said no one would be forced to stay.

"We prefer them to stay," he said on Israel Radio, "but any individual team that wants to leave can go."

"We'll do our best," said contingent member Louis Levy. "We must do this for Israel and the Jewish community."

Meanwhile, the two Australians who died were identified as Gregory Small, 36, and Yetty Bennett, 50, both of Sydney. Small, a member of the men's lawn bowling team, was pronounced dead immediately after the bridge collapsed. His wife, Susan, who was also in the delegation, was released from the hospital yesterday with a broken leg. They have three children under the age of nine.



Gregory Small (Israel Sun)



Yetty Bennett (Israel Sun)

Bennett succumbed to her injuries during the night, after having been revived by the rescuers who pulled her from the Yarkon River in critical condition. Bennett, who was a widow, left three children aged 15 to 22. She had been a section manager for the men's lawn bowls team. Because of the difference in time zones, news of her death reached her youngest daughter while she was at school.

A memorial ceremony for the dead was held last night in Maccabim.

Weizman yesterday justified the decision to continue with the opening of the games and the artistic program. During a press conference at Kfar Hamaccabiah, he said: "We knew there were 50-60 casualties, but not that there were deaths."

"No minister participated in the decisions," he added, saying that they were made by the organizers themselves.

See AUSTRALIA, Page 2

Engineer: I approved 100 person limit

By RAINE MARCUS and Tim

The engineer who planned and approved the bridge which collapsed during the opening of the 15th Maccabiah Games Monday night, causing the death of two Australians and dozens of injuries, said yesterday that he told the games organizers quite clearly that no more than 100 people should be allowed on the bridge at any given time.

Dr. Micha Bar-Ilan was questioned by police for several hours yesterday. Police said there was no suspicion of foul play.

Bar-Ilan told Channel 2 that he planned and approved the bridge in line with the criteria he had been given - a pedestrian walkway over the Yarkon River intended for games participants, with a maximum permissible weight of 250 kilograms per square meter.

"I demanded, and those who commissioned the bridge agreed, that someone would stand by the

bridge and not permit more than 100 people to cross at one time," he said in the interview with Channel 2.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said he knew of no such demand, but stressed the matter would be investigated.

Separate investigations - one by the Police and the other, a public inquiry initiated by the Education Ministry - are underway to probe the reasons for the tragedy.

Related stories, Pages 2, 3, 13

Competitors from the 370-member Australian delegation were crossing the bridge over the murky river on Monday evening to march into Ramat Gan Stadium for the official opening of the games when the metal and wood structure buck-

led. They slid into the water below, often crushing each other.

"On behalf of the government, the citizens of Israel, and myself, I wish to express our profound sorrow at the tragic accident," Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu wrote in a condolence message to his Australian counterpart, John Howard.

"Although it may be of little comfort to the bereaved families, be assured that we are conducting a thorough investigation of this disaster," Netanyahu wrote in the message, which was released by his office.

The police inquiry is focusing on possible criminal negligence. The public inquiry will investigate the planning, organization, and implementation of the subjects pertaining to safety in the Ramat Gan Stadium, and will focus on the reasons that brought about the bridge collapse.

See ENGINEER, Page 2

for probe in mayor's words

UN expected to condemn Har Homa

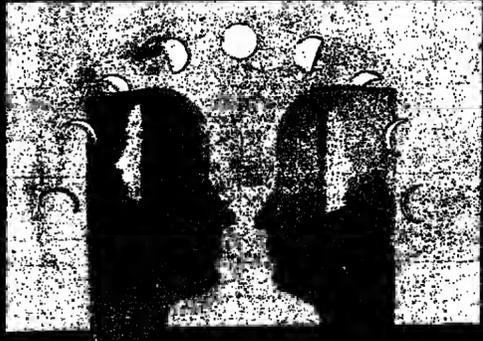
By MAHILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The UN General Assembly, meeting in a special emergency session last night, was expected to pass a resolution condemning Israel for refusing to halt construction at Har Homa.

See UN, Page 2

asked to probe serve duty

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Knesset observes minute of silence for victims

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset started yesterday's plenum session with a minute of silence in memory of the two people who died in Monday's tragedy at the opening of the Maccabiah Games in Ramat Gan. The plenum is scheduled to hear several urgent motions on the subject today. Representatives of the Australian team have been invited, although they are not expected to visit until next week.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon said: "The Knesset bows in memory of our guests from Australia — Gregory Small and Yetty Bennett — who perished in the terrible disaster of the collapsed bridge at the beginning of the 15th Maccabiah..."

"The Maccabiah for us is not just a sporting event. It is a gathering of Jewish youth from

around the world. In its short history, we have seen many participants return to us as immigrants.

"The wonderful event opening the Jewish Olympics turned into a shocking sight. The joy at this great display was struck down. The sorrow is great."

Tichon said the disaster raised several questions regarding who approved the bridge, and why its strength had not been checked.

"I have no doubt that a committee of inquiry will investigate the circumstances of this event, but the lives which were cut down cannot be brought back," he said.

Tichon praised the rescuers who jumped into the murky river. He finished by saying: "The Maccabiah must go on despite the sorrow, grief and loss."

Although more than half the

House turned up for the minute of silence — a far larger presence than is usual at the start of a plenum session — the government's seats were empty. Only Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein was present.

He entered the plenum too late to reach his seat for the moment of solidarity, and stood to attention at the entrance.

Tichon yesterday sent letters of condolence in the name of the Knesset and Israeli people to the Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives, Bob Halverson; the president of the Zionist Federation of Australia, Ron Weiser and the president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Dianne Steinman.

MK Dalia Itzik, head of Labor's response team, charged that Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu bolted the Maccabiah disaster Monday night and then lied about having had something to do with shortening the ceremony.

"Bibi bolted," said Itzik. She noted that after checking the facts, she learned that the prime minister was not involved in giving an order to shorten the opening ceremony, in contrast to statements issued by his aides.

"Bibi ran away to avoid making a decision. The president of the state stayed and so did the mayor. Both of them testify that the prime minister did not assume responsibility," Itzik said.

Netanyahu told Itim yesterday that as soon as he learned of the scope of the tragedy, he left the stadium and requested that the ceremony be canceled.

Michal Yudelman contributed to this report.



Bianka Katz, a member of the Australian team injured in Monday's opening ceremonies, is comforted by a friend while talking yesterday to her mother in Australia. (AP)

JIA
The Directors and Staff of JIA

The Zionist Federation of Australia

mourns with the House of Israel the untimely and tragic deaths of the Australian Maccabiah participants

YETTY BENNETT & GREGORY SMALL

We extend sincere and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wish a speedy recovery to the injured

ידי זכרם ברוך

THE JEWISH AGENCY

THE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

YETTY BENNETT
GREGORY SMALL

have been taken from us in their prime. Our hearts go out to the mourning families and the Jewish community in Australia.

We extend best wishes to the injured for their speedy recovery.

May we know no more sorrow

Avraham Burg, Chairman of the Executive
Charles (Korky) Goodman, Chairman of the Board of Governors

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
KEREN KAYEMETH LEISRAEL

deeply mourns the tragic deaths of

YETTY BENNETT
GREGORY SMALL

Members of the Australian Delegation to the 15th Maccabiah Games and extends its condolences to the bereaved families, to the Australian Delegation, and to the whole Maccabiah Family

KEREN HAYESOD - UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL

The leaders and volunteers of Keren Hayesod campaigns around the world, and the management and employees of the Head Office in Jerusalem, are deeply saddened by the tragic death of

Members of the Australian Team to the 15th Maccabiah

and extend condolences to the bereaved families

Shlomo Hillel, World Chairman
Daniel Liverant, Chairman Board of Trustees
Moshe Gur, Director General

THE ISRAEL TENNIS CENTER

mourns the tragic deaths of

YETTY BENNETT
and
GREGORY SMALL

and extends condolences to members of the Australian Delegation

ENGINEER
Continued from Page 1

The police probe, headed by Tel Aviv's Dan district Supt. Amiram Amor, is expected to take two weeks. The police will then decide, together with the attorney-general, whether there is sufficient evidence to recommend indictments against any of those responsible.

Following construction of the bridge, on June 20, Bar-Ilan informed the police licensing and safety division that the bridge complied with all criteria to carry persons. He stated the bridge could withstand 250 kilograms per square meter.

Based on this, the police issued the relevant permits.

Yesterday police began investigating all those involved in the bridge's construction, but put a blackout on specific details. Evidence from eyewitnesses indicated that the bridge may have

been shaky even before its use Monday evening.

In addition to Bar-Ilan, police began questioning the managers and employees of the construction company which erected the bridge, Ben-Ezer Caragula.

The public inquiry committee has been appointed by Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled. It is headed by former IDF chief engineer Brig-Gen. (res.) Yishai Dotan and includes Dr. Moni Ben-Bassar, head of the Technion's National Institute for Building Research, police representatives, a member of the Maccabiah organizing committee, and an architect. Among the questions the committee will address is why a private company was selected for the bridge construction over the IDF, which had been asked by the organizers to submit a proposal for the bridge.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL

deeply mourns the tragic deaths of

YETTY BENNETT
GREGORY SMALL

and extends deepest condolences to the bereaved families and the members of the Australian delegation to the 15th Maccabiah Games

TECHNION
Israel Institute of Technology

Mourns the tragic event at the Opening Ceremony of the 15th Maccabiah Games, and expresses heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims.

The Technion extends wishes for a speedy recovery to the injured individuals, and conveys moral support to the participating athletes.

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extend sincere condolences to the

Australian Team

and the entire Maccabiah

upon the tragic loss of its athletes and wish a full and speedy recovery to the injured

חוק ומצמי

IN CONTEXT/HERB KEINON

The tragedy of improvisation

It is both ironic and frightening that the Arad music festival, marred by a tragedy two years ago that left three people dead and more than 100 injured, was scheduled to open last night, the night after the disaster at the Maccabiah Games.

The irony is obvious. What is so frightening is that two such occurrences, so close together, indicate a deep-seated systemic problem. Accidents happen. But when they happen seemingly one after the other, at events where extensive thought, preparation, and coordination is expected, it indicates a problem that is deep-rooted. And that is what is so frightening. It is not just a bad bridge at Ramat Gan, or a faulty gate that collapsed at Arad, it is a mentality problem.

"A culture has evolved where laws, rules, and regulations are not respected," said Tel Aviv University sociologist Ephraim Yauchtmann-Yaar, head of the school's Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace Research. "There are dozens of laws on the books that are simply not enforced."

Yauchtmann-Yaar said that everywhere you look, you will see examples of attention not being paid to details, to the rules and regulations on the books. But when attention is not paid to the little details, it also will not be paid to big details later.

The disregard for laws, Yauchtmann-Yaar said, stems from Jewish existence in the Diaspora, where the law often was seen as something hostile, as the tool of the enemy.

"This attitude is deeply rooted," he said.

In addition, he said, the infor-

malty in the country also leads to a degree of laxness.

"Things are arranged informally, by one person who knows someone else. This impacts on the results, which are also often less orderly," he said.

And finally, Yauchtmann-Yaar said, "people try to save money, and think only of the short term. They don't realize that this will lead to a loss in the long run."

A good example of this in the everyday realm, he said, is the lack of security precautions around building sites. "While in America, the sites are fenced off, here the contractor puts up a couple boards and says he has done the job," he said.

This mentality, Yauchtmann-Yaar said, then rolls over to bigger events, with far worse consequences. Yitzhak Galnoor, the former head of the Civil Servants Administration and today a political science professor at Hebrew University, said that the country's underlying mentality problem is a serious inability at team work and long-term planning.

"A senior American official involved in negotiations with Israelis once told me that no one is better than the Israelis at improvising non-conventional solutions. But he also said that when it comes to organized planning, they are very bad," Galnoor said.

"Ninety-five percent of life is organized planning," he added. "Only five percent calls for unconventional solutions."

Galnoor said this lack of teamwork and planning, this extreme individualism, is evident at all societal levels, from the governmental, to the business world, to the military.

"If someone needs tons of flowers in Holland tomorrow, we can get it there. If they need the flowers in a year, we will be unable to do it," he said.

Likewise, he said, Israel is best militarily when attacked, not when initiating. Galnoor, like Yauchtmann-Yaar, attributed this trait to long years in the exile, where Jews had to hone their survival skills to get by.

"Israeli society," he said, "does not encourage team work, documentation."

"Rather it values the person who will come in at the end with a good idea, and will say, 'Don't worry, rely on me.'"

Avi Kay, an organizational psychologist who for 15 years has worked screening job applicants, said, "One thing that always struck me was how proud, rightly so, Israelis are of their ability to improvise, to make do, to quickly react to situations. But unfortunately it seems this is a necessary because of inadequate planning."

Israelis, Kay said, "are much more flexible in their thinking. This should be praised. The down side is that this is often because they didn't plan well in the first place. It is like coming late to a bus stop, running after the bus, and then boasting how fast you are."

Kay, dean of students at Touro College in Jerusalem, said that "when you talk to people there is tremendous pride at being able to improvise. There is a feeling that planning is not that important, that we are all smart Jews, and things will work out."

The Maccabiah disaster has shown, again, how tragically mistaken that attitude is.

CPI

Continued from Page 1

"It appears as though people have been putting prices up as a reaction to the high dollar," said economist Ruth Lowenstein, a partner in the economic planning company Sadan Lowenstein Ltd. "There is no justification for this."

The principle increases were in the indexes for housing and household goods, clothing and footwear, health, education, culture and entertainment, and transportation and communications.

Increases in housing prices added 0.2% to the overall June CPI, with the index itself rising 2.4%. Purchasing apartments became 2.5% more expensive, while the cost of rental accommodation rose 2.3%.

Clothing and footwear prices rose 1.3%. The cost of using transport and communications increased 1.3%.

UN

Continued from Page 1

It was also expected to call on UN members to suspend support for Israeli settlements and bar the import of settlement products.

One day after he was approved by the cabinet as Israel's ambassador to the UN, Dore Gold appeared at the General Assembly.

"Let no member of this assembly delude themselves that this session will in any way advance prospects for peace in our region," he said, appearing before the assembly as a special representative because he has yet to present his credentials. "The remains of resolutions passed in the United Nations over the years have not brought the two sides one inch nearer to resolving their differences."

AUSTRALIA

Continued from Page 1

Only when he began walking into the stadium did Israel Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani inform him someone had died, he said, adding he then "agreed to open the games, but said I would leave after the singing of Hatikvah."

Responding to a question about allegations that the Australians themselves had caused the bridge to collapse, Weizman said it was a technical fault which had nothing to do with the contingent's behavior.

Israel's image in the world will not be damaged because of this, he said, in response to another question.

"The problem with Israel's image is the Palestinian problem, the question of Hebron. One bridge collapsing, as terrible as that is, will not affect the country's image."

The Panel of Airline Representatives in Israel mourns the tragic death of

JUAN BOSCO AZORIN

son of Mr. Gaspar Azorin — General Manager of Iberia Airlines in Israel and expresses sincere condolences to the bereaved family

Correction: The Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center is hosting the Spanish National Ballet and not as advertised in yesterday's Critics' Choice column. See Page 15 for details.

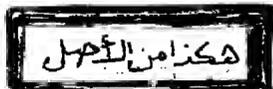
SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the King David Speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Mr. Avner Cooperstein, Bureau Chief, U.S. News and World Report, will address the club.

We pay's mourning

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND KEREN KAYEMETH LEISRAEL

extends its condolences to all injured Australian Delegation





President Ezer Weizman addresses the grieving Australian delegation to the Maccabiah Games, as they deliberate whether to stay and play despite the tragedy, or return home. (Dan Osovsky/Israel Sun)

Yarkon pollution complicates treatment of injured athletes

By JUDY SEGEL

Twenty-eight Australian and Austrian sportsmen injured in the Maccabiah bridge collapse are receiving treatment in four hospitals, with seven in serious condition. Treatment has been complicated by the fact that the section of Yarkon River into which the bridge collapsed is polluted by minimally treated sewage.

Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv has admitted the most victims, with three of 18 in serious condition and the rest lightly injured. Four of the injured are Austrians, while the rest are Australian.

Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer has two in serious condition with head injuries and four with moderate injuries in the orthopedics, surgical and burns unit - all of them Australian.

The Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus is treating a 50-year-old Austrian who broke his elbow and a 15-year-old Australian boy who broke his ankle and required surgery.

The Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petah Tikva is caring for two Australian girls - a 15-year-old tennis player and a 14-year-old swimmer from Sydney, Sherry Silver.

Sherry's mother Lilly, a nurse, was in the stadium with her husband, an art dealer, when the tragedy

occurred.

"Sherry is so dedicated, and wanted to do well in the games," said her mother last night. When Mrs. Silver learned of the tragedy, she was "numb and shocked, because I had heard that many Australians had been injured." But it was only at Schneider Hospital that she saw her daughter, whose condition is improving although she remains heavily sedated. "Sherry was on the middle of the bridge, and although she is an excellent swimmer, she went into the water. When others piled onto her, she stopped breathing." Help was very quick, however, and someone resuscitated her.

The other six critically injured participants are: Irena Berezina-Feldman, 32, from Sydney, a member of the chess team;

Sacha Ellerman, 15, from Sydney, a member of the junior tennis team;

Frank Gaensler, 53, from Sydney, a member of the 10-pin bowling team;

Harry Goldberg, 63, from Melbourne, a member of the lawn bowls team;

Elizabeth Sawicki, 47, from Melbourne, a member of the bridge team; and

Warren Zines, 56, from Sydney, a member of the lawn bowls team.

Weizman pays tribute to mourning Aussies

By BATSHEVA TSUR

A polite ripple of applause and a mass of bleary eyes greeted President Ezer Weizman as he entered the Kfar Hamaccabiah hall where the Australian delegation gathered yesterday at noon to decide whether or not to continue their participation in the games.

Traumatized, grieving and exhausted, the Australians sat silently, often leaning on each other for comfort. Many of the lightly injured, swathed in bandages or support collars, had rejoined the group. They were wearing their white and green team shirts like a badge of honor.

It could go any way, and Weizman was treading gingerly. "This is one of the most difficult days of my adult life - as I am sure it is for you," Weizman opened. "I have come here to be with you and listen to you," he said simply.

"Nothing can be the same after what happened," he continued. "I can only suggest that you carry on, with all the difficulties." A teenage boy, his eyes red and puffy, let the tears stream down his cheeks unabashedly. Head tilted back, her injured foot up on a stool, a woman wept inaudibly. A counselor stroked the hair of a young girl whose face was buried in her shoulder.

There was noise from behind the rope where a large number of media representatives had gathered. Weizman asked for silence. "We don't want the press here. We want privacy," a man shouted out from the crowd. "It's not decent."

Weizman began telling the gathering of his childhood memories of the first Maccabiah, in 1932.

"It was a great thrill for us, in Palestine, to see young Jewish sportsmen from all over the world coming here," he said. "They waved the Jewish flag, which later became our national flag. I don't recall if there were Australians."

"Take them out," another man shouted, referring to the media. "They have no sensitivity." It looked like tempers could flare.

The president turned unusually quietly to the press: "Please wait outside for me. I'll give you all the time you need." The Australians rose to their feet and most clapped heartily as the media trooped out.

The president spoke of the War of Liberation. Israel had lost 1%

of its entire population, he said. Some of the young boys gasped. "This is a country filled with tensions," Weizman continued. "Yesterday we wanted to see something that would bring pleasure to you and all of us." He decided to tackle head-on the controversial issue of continuing with the artistic ceremony. He invited reactions.

"There are no excuses. It was a tough decision and perhaps you would like to criticize it. Please do so, if you want. My instinct said 'stop it,' but then I thought of the 50,000 people in the stadium."

It was time to mention his hospital visits. Turning to an injured competitor, sitting in a stiff collar, Weizman said: "How are you feeling? We shook hands last night." To another, he said: "You are an Australian-Australian. I was surprised to hear how many South African-Australians there are in the delegation. You are in the carpet business, right?" People were relaxing. Some laughed.

Weizman spoke of Israel's development, of his pride in the aliya of the past few years. It was time to make his main point.

"I suggest we carry on," he said. "If you think it's too difficult (to continue participating), please say so. To carry on - and especially to win a few medals - is the best thing. I know it's easy for me to recommend this to you." The delegation rose to its feet, applauding.

"When we make our decision, we must remember the youngsters in the delegation," a man called from the back of the hall. "For them, it's the realization of a dream. To stop now would be wrong."

Two strapping young men, Philip Sacks, captain of the men's bowling team, and vice captain Daniel Zalkman asked for the microphone.

"We've lost two members of our team and one is in critical condition," Zalkman began. "The rest are also wounded. We have four team members who could compete." Tension was rife.

"In memory of our dead comrades, We have decided to stay here and to compete. We shall be thinking of Yehy Bennett and Greg Small."

"For four years, Greg spoke of coming here. He dreamt of the moment when we would walk into the stadium. We will win medals for them," Zalkman said.

And the gathering rose and sang Hatikva.

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16. 1997 The Jerusalem Post

Monday's opening ceremony in Australia

LEMON

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AUSTRALIA

SOCIAL

NEWS

in brief

12 years for Kikos rape

The Beersheba District Court yesterday sentenced Suleiman Abeid to 12 years in prison for the rape of Henit Kikos. Last week, the Supreme Court overturned Abeid's conviction of murder of the 17-year-old hitchhiker in 1993, but upheld the rape charge. Abeid's lawyer Avigdor Feldman requested that implementation of the sentence be delayed as the Supreme Court is expected to discuss an amendment to its verdict on the rape charge - i.e., possible acquittal of the accused. The request was denied. *Itim*

Further remand for Lerner

Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court Judge Yeshayahu Shenlar yesterday extended the remand of Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner) by another seven days, despite his declaration last week that he would authorize no more extensions until an indictment was made. The judge stated that the investigation into bank fraud and involvement in a murder was not yet complete, and reiterated the need to indict Lerner on some of the charges. Police Assistant Commander Meir Gilboa had asked for a 10-day remand extension. Gilboa said political activists were organizing to get Lerner released, in return for contributions they had received from him in the past. *Itim*

Eitan takes over forces in Judea and Samaria

The IDF has announced that Brig.-Gen. Yitzhak Eitan will take over command tomorrow of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria. He will be relieving Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir, 47, who is expecting further promotion. Eitan, 45, has been the commander in the Gaza Strip for the past two years. Ofir has been mentioned as a possible successor to OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Flag law passes

Under a law which passed final reading yesterday, all government, educational and cultural institutions will have to fly the national flag. Opposition to the bill united MKs from the haredi parties with those from the Arab parties and Meretz. *Liat Collins*

UTJ's Gafni to religious judges committee

United Torah Judaism's Moshe Gafni has been elected as the coalition's representative on the committee which appoints religious judges. He replaces Avraham Stern, who died on Independence Day. The vote was 49 to 19, with six abstentions. The opposition's representative is Uzi Baram of Labor. *Liat Collins*

Olmert vows to enforce demolition orders

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday told the Knesset Law Committee that if illegal buildings in eastern Jerusalem are not demolished, the city will not remain united. Olmert presented figures to back his claim that since 1967, more homes in the Jerusalem municipal area have been built for Arabs, proportional to the population, than for Jews. "If demolition orders are not carried out in the numbers necessitated by the amount of illegal building, Jerusalem - in the form we know as one city - will no longer exist," said Olmert, noting that there are plans for 15,250 Arab dwellings in the city. *Liat Collins*

Migdal-Or celebrates institution's success

Eighty graduates from the Migdal-Or high school in Jerusalem - along with their families, supporters and the school's founders - celebrated the first fruit of their labor yesterday. All gathered in the Great Synagogue of Jerusalem for an official ceremony to demonstrate satisfaction with the students' academic accomplishments. Also present were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wexler of New York, the prime donors and advocates of the institution, which combines secular and religious studies. *Avi Levy*

PA policeman arrested for ties to previous attacks on settlers

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Security forces have arrested a Palestinian police officer allegedly linked with previous attacks on settlements, and Israel has demanded that the Palestinians immediately arrest a senior police officer in Nablus suspected of ordering attacks on settlers.

The IDF closed off the city of Nablus yesterday following the arrest of three Palestinian policemen who the army claims were on their way to carry out an attack on the Jewish settlement of Har Bracha.

The army said it surrounded Nablus with roadblocks and declared it a closed military zone. Israelis were banned from entering the city and Jewish worshippers were not allowed to pray at Joseph's Tomb.

Following the interrogation of the three Palestinian policemen, the army said last night that Israel wants Asst.-Cmdr. Jihad Masini, a senior Nablus police officer, to be arrested on suspicion he ordered the shooting attack at Elon Moreh Rabbi Levanon on

July 10. Levanon's car was hit with gunfire, but no one was hurt.

A second officer, Munir Abushi, already has been detained by Israeli security forces on suspicion he ordered attacks in the Tulkarm region, the army said.

But the Palestinian Police denied that the three policemen were on their way to attack Israel. A senior Palestinian police official said the three, one of whom was wounded during the arrest and hospitalized at Tel Hashomer, were in pursuit of a "suspicious vehicle." The source admitted the three violated the Oslo accord by entering Israeli-controlled areas with weapons.

Col. Samah Kenaan, deputy head of the Palestinian preventive security, said if it turned out that the three Palestinians were carrying out an attack then it was on their own accord and no one had sent them.

"I condemn this since this would be against the spirit of the agreements between us," Kenaan told *Jm*. "If the Israelis had prior knowledge of their intentions, then

they should have arrested them in cooperation with us."

The IDF stands by its claim that the three policemen were about to attack Har Bracha and said it had hard evidence to back this. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, speaking to reporters during a visit to Hebron, said the investigation was continuing.

OC Central Command Mag.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, meanwhile, summoned the heads of the regional councils in Judea and Samaria to his headquarters late Monday. Military sources said they were given an intelligence assessment of the present situation and briefed on the actions of Israeli security forces.

Bot Dayan also asked them to urge settlement residents to take additional security steps at this tense time, the military sources said.

Chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza Pinchas Wallerstein, who attended the brief-

ing, declined to confirm or deny reports that the army had warned them they had information that Palestinian groups planned to target settlers.

In Hebron, meanwhile, about two-dozen settlers bitterly complained to Mordechai that the IDF wasn't doing enough to protect them. One person held a banner saying: "Mordechai is a failure in security."

Mordechai brushed off the criticism and said that the newly enforced calm in the city was evidence that the PA was capable of controlling the situation when it wanted to.

Mordechai said the Palestinian security forces finally intervened in Hebron after Israel, through the Americans and the Egyptians, put pressure on PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and threatened to crack down harshly if the street violence continued.

Mordechai also told Hebron merchants that they would be allowed to keep their shops open provided the unrest is not resumed.

Sources: Netanyahu wanted Erekat out

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Saeb Erekat's replacement by Nabil Shaath as the Palestinian Authority's chief negotiator was attributed in West Bank political quarters yesterday to a demand by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

But Netanyahu's director of communication, David Bar-Ilan, flatly denied this. "There never has been any interference on our part" in the PA's choice of personnel, he said.

The consensus in Palestinian political circles was that Erekat was regarded as a hardliner by Israeli policymakers while Shaath, the PA's planning minister, is perceived as a moderate.

Erekat, of Jericho, was a professor at Nablus' A-Najah University until the advent of the Oslo Accords in 1993 swept him into international politics. In contrast, Shaath arrived in the Gaza Strip with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat from Tunis. Veteran West Bankers consider Erekat an "insider" and Shaath an "outsider."

Israeli sources conceded that Arafat may have wanted to show a more moderate face by turning to Shaath and dropping Erekat.

Pressed as to whether the prime minister urged Arafat to make this change, one of the sources asked rhetorically, "Do you think the Palestinians would accommodate Netanyahu for nothing?" They implied that there would have had to have been a trade-off, which, in this case, they said, did not occur.

Erekat left for the US shortly before the last round of talks between Shaath and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. He will retain his post as minister of local government, but unconfirmed reports said he was considering doing academic research at an American university.



Arad Festival-goers anticipate Matti Caspi's performance last night.

Teens camp out at Arad Festival

By AMY KLEIN

Nose rings, tank tops and cellular phones were *de rigueur* at the opening of the Arad Festival last night. Thousands of teens and their sleeping bags came from all over the country to the cooling desert town to camp out for the three-day event.

To prevent a recurrence of the stampede that killed three people at the festival two years ago, hundreds of police, border patrol and private security guards were dispersed throughout the town. Fifteen to 20 security people manned each entrance to the Matti Caspi and Rita concerts, the festival's two big events last night.

"We don't have any special instructions for crowd control," said Michel Ambroza, a policeman from Kiryat Gat. "Just to check peo-

ple very carefully."

The families of the three victims of 1995's festival held a vigil in Arad yesterday to protest the continuation of the festival.

Admission to the concerts proceeded in a semi-ordered fashion. After last year's poor attendance, crowds returned for the 15th Arad Festival.

"I'm not afraid to be here," said 15-year-old Tomer Ron of Yavne, who was mildly injured in the stampede two years ago.

"My parents let me come back," said 15-year-old Ron Shiff, from Jerusalem, and he pointed to his cellular phone, rented for the occasion.

The accident at the Maccabiah games did not put a damper on the exuberant atmosphere.

"It's sad but we live with tragedy," said Na'ama Nissan, 15, of Ma'aleh Adumim.

While many of the teens are excited about the concerts, particularly the performances by Aviv Geffen, many were not going to any at all.

"We're here for the atmosphere," said David Sasson 15, of Jerusalem.

The atmosphere was "punks meet Woodstock" - teens with spiked, bleached hair and tie-died t-shirts lay around the central square singing, playing guitars or dancing.

While most of the crowd was pre-army, there were some older visitors.

This is 29-year-old Idan Lamdan's 13th Arad Festival.

"I'm here for the concerts," the Ramat Hasharon resident said. "All the great people perform here. I waited five years for Ma' Caspi. Most of the kids don't even know who Caspi is."

Sharon, PM meet in reported good atmosphere

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon got together yesterday for a meeting intended to improve the tense relations between them.

The 90-minute session took place in what an official statement described as "a good atmosphere." The joint communiqué also said the two discussed state and security affairs, and matters pertaining to Sharon's ministry.

In addition, the prime minister decided to make the issue of free trade zones Sharon's responsibility. This was done with the agreement of Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman.

Yesterday's meeting is expected to appease Sharon and prevent further attacks on Netanyahu and his cabinet. Sharon has been in a huff since last week, when Netanyahu pushed him out of the finance post just hours before his appointment was to have been announced. Sharon was also reportedly annoyed at Netanyahu's decision to abolish the three-man security "kitchenette," at the demand of Foreign



Ariel Sharon (Ariel Jerzolimski)

Minister David Levy, who didn't want Sharon to be a member. Despite the "abolition," however, Netanyahu has already held two consultations with Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, the two other members of the "kitchenette."

Netanyahu has also asked Sharon to be part of such discussions from now on.

Man murders brother, then shoots himself

Eitan Gidoni, 27, of Talpiot, apparently murdered his 29-year-old brother Yoav - to whom he owed more than NIS 160,000 - yesterday morning, committing suicide minutes later.

Earlier, Eitan allegedly shot his former business partner, Avraham Eldar, 60, who was still in critical condition last night at Jerusalem's Haddassah-University Hospital at Ein Kerem.

Yoav had provided his younger brother with financial support for his and Eldar's flower business. As the company's debt grew, the brothers had a falling out.

After Eitan and Eldar's partnership dissolved, Yoav kept in touch with Eldar, against Eitan's will. Eitan apparently shot Eldar Monday evening, and hours later went to his brother's home and murdered him in front of his common-law wife. Neighbors alerted police, who found Eitan's body nearby. It appeared that he had shot himself immediately after the murder.

Their father Yehuda said the family had attempted to mediate the dispute. Four months ago, he had promised to will Yoav a large part of his estate in order to cover Eitan's debt.

"All my sons are good children. I only wish they had killed me instead," the father said, adding that "everyone knew that one day the brothers would kill each other."

Eitan, one of five sons, was engaged to be married. Yoav was a real estate agent who lived with his common-law wife and her four-year-old daughter. Neither brother had a criminal record.

Their father requested that autopsies not be performed, telling the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court that his grandfather is a rabbi and objected to the autopsies on religious grounds. Yoav's common-law wife witnessed the entire incident and identified Eitan as the murderer, the father said, so there was no reason to investigate the cause of death.

Judge Yitzhak Milnov agreed, and yesterday rejected a police request to perform autopsies on the brothers.

Foreign ministry staff protest 'political involvement' in Moscow appointment

By JAY BUSHINSKY

In a virtual ultimatum to Foreign Minister David Levy and Director-General Eitan Bentsur, the Foreign Ministry's staff committee issued a stern warning yesterday against the political interference, threats and insults which, in its view, scuttled Herzl Inbar's nomination as ambassador to Russia, Zvi Magen, who is currently the ambassador to Ukraine.

that political parties can choose ambassadors to certain countries is unacceptable. Implicit in the message is the prospect of a strike if the circumstances that led Inbar to abandon his quest for the Moscow post continue.

Although it did not specify the Yisrael B'Aliya Party by name, the staff committee mentioned its preferred candidate for envoy to Russia, Zvi Magen, who is currently the ambassador to Ukraine. Yisrael B'Aliya ministers Natan

Sharansky and Yuli Edelstein insisted that the coalition agreement requires that they be consulted with regard to the nominee for ambassador to Moscow. They rejected Inbar's candidacy on the grounds that he neither knew Russian nor understood the Russian mentality.

"We consider this political involvement a dangerous precedent, and an assault on the foundations of proper administration," said the communiqué.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Is Netanyahu losing touch with reality?

Moving the weekly cabinet meetings from Friday back to Sunday, as was the practice in all previous governments, proves that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu "has grown into his position" and learns with time, writes *Ma'ariv's* Rafi Manno sarcastically.

It took Netanyahu a whole year to discover that the "magic remedy" of convening the cabinet on Friday rather than Sunday does nothing to increase efficiency, and he thus moved it back to Sunday, just like in the good old days of PMs Ben-Gurion, Golda, Eshkol, Rabin, Shamir and Peres, comments Mann.

With all his desire to undermine the Oslo process, Netanyahu will soon learn, Mann predicts, that there are only two options: adopting the agreements, including pullbacks from the territories, or plunging the entire region into violent confrontation.

We had an indication this week of where Netanyahu is leading us, like "a herd of silly goats," when the reaction to the ongoing conflict in Hebron came from Ya'acov Bardugo, coordinator of negotiations with the Palestinians. Bardugo made his statement during the press conference marking his appointment as director of Mifal Hapayis. Mann finds it significant that the man in charge of the peace talks is no other than the director of the state lottery.

Ha'aretz's Yoel Marcus raises the chilling possibility that the prime minister is cut off from reality, as Menachem Begin was before he quit that post. Nobody misses that government, whose functioning, internal relations and shortcomings are amazingly reminiscent of what is happening today, states Marcus.

Describing the escalation in Hebron and Lebanon, Marcus notes that only a blind man can't see the situation is on the verge of exploding. Does Netanyahu think that by "tricking Sharon, giving Levy a letter and promising the post of ambassador to Sharan's man, he will stop the diminishing of the IDF's deterring power and prevent war?"

It is worrying, continues Marcus, that Netanyahu does not realize the international isolation we've reached, that even his ministers do not know where he is leading, and that behind his "no" there is no path leading to a political decision.

At least, notes Marcus, Begin eventually understood that he had lost control, quit and quarantined himself at home.

Ramon's new car

MK Haim Ramon left Labor some three years ago to form the New Life faction, conquer the Histadrut, and ostensibly turn it into a new, "cleaner," stronger organization, writes *Yedioth Aharonot's* Amos Carmel. Ramon then fled the Histadrut after barely a year in office, although he promised to stay to the end of his term, and returned to his mother party. But he continues to head the ghost faction he formed, "which ravenously sucks regular funding from the Histadrut's dwindled teats." These funds have been used to finance Ramon's new car, including expenses and maintenance. Never mind that the faction has no members, branches or current activity, or that Ramon is a senior member and MK of another party.

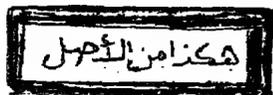
Incidentally, the Histadrut which Ramon promised to make stronger is bankrupt and failed to pay its workers' wages this month, it was reported earlier this week. But that did not prevent it from financing a delegation of 12 local labor council secretaries to Italy this week.

Jewish Missionaries

The Education Ministry last week started the process of nullifying the teaching license of high school principal Yekutiel Dagon, who had warned his pupils "not to fall into the web of the gang of 'conversion missionaries' who are more dangerous than the worst drug dealers." No wonder such heretical words infuriated orthodox and ultra-orthodox MKs Shlomo Benizri (Shas), Education Minister Zevulun Hammer (NRP) and Avraham Ravitz (Degel Hatorah), writes *Ha'aretz's* Ran Kislitz, who compared the MKs' reaction to the Spanish Inquisition. Ravitz, who called Dagon a "low man who has no place in human society," demanded charges be pressed against him for "incitement to smoke drugs."

Kenya students for se...

Holocaust...



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A sense of shame

The accident, due to negligence, at the opening of the Maccabiah is a national shame. We, Israel, are hosting athletes from all over the world, and two of our Australian guests are dead and dozens injured in a preventable tragedy.

The Maccabiah organizers evidently decided to go ahead with much of the opening program, without knowing the extent of the injuries among the Australian athletes. It was necessarily a snap decision, under tremendous pressure, and without any precedents for guidance.

The pain expressed by Isi Liebler, chairman of the governing board of the World Jewish Congress and former president of the Australian Jewish community, is understandable. "I am shocked, outraged, and for the first time in Israel, embarrassed by the extraordinary lack of sensitivity by those who decided to proceed with the artistic and dancing program at the same time they were looking for survivors, and a person had been killed," he said on Monday night.

Within minutes, the decision to continue the ceremony had no authors. The organizers said they were following the recommendation of President Ezer Weizman. Weizman said he had only asked that the program be changed, and noted that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu must have also known what was going on.

The "on with the show" decision is now being compared to the 1972 Munich Olympics decision to continue despite the terrorist attack in which 11 Israeli athletes were murdered, and to the continuation of the recent Atlanta Olympics following a deadly bombing there.

This decision, however, deserves neither to be as infamous as that of the Olympic Committee in Munich, nor to earn the flavor of bravado and defiance attached to the immediate reopening of the Tel Aviv cafe. This was not a terrorist attack,

whose aims could have been negated by a swift return to daily life. This was an accident, most surely caused by negligence, that was brought upon our guests by ourselves.

The only appropriate response to such an accident is to accept responsibility, express sorrow, make restitution, and learn lessons.

Rather than wait for outside investigations to be completed, the Maccabiah Organizing Committee should investigate itself - not for the purpose of shifting blame, but to determine how a bridge could have been constructed which could not bear the pressure of one of the first delegations to cross it.

The committee should also sit down with the Australian delegation - which deserves praise for its dignity in the face of disaster - to determine an appropriate way for the games and the State of Israel to apologize to them and to the Australian Jewish community, both for the deadly negligence and for the subsequent mistake of continuing with celebrations as so many athletes lay seriously injured.

To focus their minds, the committee should consider whether they would have acted differently if this disaster had happened to the Israeli team, either here or somewhere else in the world.

The organizers were right to postpone the games for one day, in mourning for those killed and with prayers for the swift recovery of the injured, and the Australians have made the right decision in voting to stay and participate. But more must be done to repair the fabric that has been torn, and the Maccabiah committee must take it upon itself to do so.

It is too soon to know whether collapse of the bridge reflects "only" the misjudgment of a single supervising engineer, a single company, or a system upon which the public relies for the safety of structures throughout the country. Here too, it would be refreshing if those concerned accepted responsibility where warranted, rather than scrambling to avoid it by pointing at this or that authorizing body.

The ceremony that could not wait Monday night was a celebration of 100 years of Zionism and 50 years since the founding of the Jewish State. In an era when Zionism is not exactly in fashion even in Israel, the pride expressed in celebrating these landmarks is certainly welcome. But more important than pride, is a sense of shame when true mistakes are made, because lack of shame breeds the insensitivity that marked the accident's aftermath, and the irresponsibility that brought it about.



'Leave it to me...'

It was one of my life's greatest ambitions to compete in the Maccabiah. To me, the games represented all Israel stood for - strength, stamina, rebirth - and that I longed to be a part of.

That dream came true at the 10th Maccabiah on the murky waters of the Yarkon, over which I raced as an American oarsman. It was a dream that ended Monday night, 20 years later, in those same murky waters.

The deaths of two Australian participants, the wounding of scores more, is indicative of what Israel has come to represent. Not strength and stamina, but recklessness and greed. Not rebirth, but indifference to human life.

There might be a temptation to view Monday night's disaster as an isolated incident. But it isn't. The criminal negligence and corner-cutting that caused it is endemic to Israeli society. It is the same smooch elai (leave it to me) mentality that led to the army disasters at Tze'elim and She'ar Yeshuv; the same hakol yihye b'seder (don't worry, it'll be okay) attitude that makes Israel's highways among the world's deadliest.

Call it arrogance, cockiness, bravura, it's there in the lack of attention to detail, in the readiness to settle for a shoddy job. You feel it in the pushing on lines, in the rudeness of clerks, in the substandard service you come to anticipate.

To overlook the connection between all this and pitfalls in the peace process - or, for that matter, a prime minister's assassination - is to miss the rot at the core of our society.

That rot has spoiled one of the most exciting and meaningful moments in Israeli history. The 15th Maccabiah, bringing together thousands of Jewish ath-

MICHAEL OREN

letes from around the world, coincided with Zionism's 100th anniversary, and the 50th birthday of the state.

The point was hammered home by speaker after speaker at the torch-lighting ceremony I attended earlier Monday, together with 500 members of the US delegation, in the Modi'in forest.

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Israelis: For the 24 hours after a tragedy, arrogance gives way to remorse. Politicians express their condolences, the radio plays sentimental songs.

Then come the recriminations, the finger-pointing, the coverups, followed by the investigative committee, perhaps the suspension of a few mid-level officials, who may be quietly rehired later.

It's all over soon enough, without anybody having asked: "Was this a one-time occurrence, or was it a symptom of a more pervasive malaise?"

The old hubris returns, growing more entrenched, more treacherous, until the next disaster.

Yet these disasters can be prevented if we only recognize the link between them. We need to look deep inside ourselves, locate the flaw - that fatal indifference - and begin to work on it.

If the 15th Maccabiah can serve as the catalyst for this search, perhaps it may in time be remembered as something more than a senseless tragedy.

Thinking back to the idealist I was, it saddens me to admit that carelessness and disdain have become part of our national character. They have brought death and disability to thousands.

Can a nation change the traits that undermine it? I believe it can, but slowly, and only once people become aware of the damage they wreak. A society-wide campaign, from the schools all the way up to the Knesset, aimed at fostering such introspection isn't inconceivable.

Citizens of Israel, from athletes to academics to service people: The torch of civility is heavy. But we must raise it and run with it.

The writer, a historian, was a gold medalist in the 1977 Maccabiah.

THIS sequence is well known to

Beyond the balance sheet

All eyes were focused last week on the tumultuous riots in Hebron and Gush Katif. But a quiet event in Nablus earlier this month, away from the glare of the media, may in the long run contain more political-economic significance than the petrol bombs of Hebron.

Leading public figures in Nablus basted an economic conference, entitled Prospects for Investment in the Districts of the Northern West Bank, at which some participants proposed a model for managing the Palestinian economy that is quite different from the current economic regime favored by the Palestinian Authority.

This alternative model stresses private initiative, free trade through open borders and an honest and responsible public administration. Its adoption would, in addition to changing the economic situation of the Palestinians, eventually transform the Israeli-Palestinian relationship from a dialogue of petrol bombs and rubber bullets to one of economic cooperation.

Guests of honor at the conference were members of the Economic Group, a fight circle of affluent Palestinians based in Amman and composed mainly of Nablu expatriates who have made their fortunes abroad. Its leading member, Abd el-Majid Shuman, personally built the Arab Bank from the ground up to its current position as the largest bank in the Middle East, high on the list of the world's wealthiest banks.

The group - also known as "the wealthy Arabs" and "the Palestinian Rothschilds" - has been the target of accusations by the Palestinian Authority to the effect that its members have not invested enough in businesses within the PA's territory.

It is true that the group has, for the most part, avoided large-scale investments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the reason was made clear at the conference: The group's economic views are poles apart from the PA's.

PINHAS INBARI ZIV HELLMAN

Sabih el-Masri, a leading member of the group, made an effort to detail a long list of West Bank projects that have benefited from capital put up by the group; at the same time he insisted on the adoption of an economic world view significantly at odds with the PA's conception of a state-controlled and monopolistically-driven

Two views of the Palestinian economy speak volumes about the relationship with Israel

economy.

The PA's economic philosophy was defended by Palestinian Finance Minister Mohammed Nashashibi, who said it was necessary for overcoming "national challenges." Nashashibi called on the assembled Palestinian capitalists to join a "Higher Committee" that would include representatives of the PA and Palestinian think-tanks, and whose main purpose would be "to serve the decision maker."

It amounted to saying that the Economic Group was expected to place its capital at the disposal of the PA leadership.

Responding, el-Masri and his partners differed sharply, claiming that economies are driven not by the public but by the private sector, which should be given the opportunity to lead economic development in the territories.

Supporting this view, Dr Hisham Awaratani, a senior researcher at the Nablus-based Centre for Palestine Research and Studies, pointed to the drastic reduction in investments since the creation of the PA and criticized the PA's dependency on donations from a broad net directed toward infrastructure.

The Palestinians do not want to

live in an economy subsisting on charity, like Bangladesh, he said.

THE debate between the PA and the Economic Group has implications that go beyond strict economics to different views on Israeli-Palestinian relations.

The Palestinian finance minister, lecturing on the importance of state-run economics, was quite harsh in his views on Israel, using terms like "economic war" and calling for the annulment of economic cooperation agreements and the customs union.

In contrast, the Economic Group speakers wondered why the Palestinian economy was not exploiting opportunities for expanding economic ties to Israel (as well as to the US and the EU) in order to benefit from a large and neighboring market.

The difference between their views and the hostile attitude adopted by PA speakers couldn't have been clearer: The group stressed the importance of security and public calm as encouraging stable investments.

In recent years virtually the entire world has been moving toward what is called an "integrated world economy," which at its roots intertwines the values of economic liberalism, capital investments, open borders, democracy and stable, peaceful relations between nations.

But speakers at the Nablus conference who called on their compatriots to join this global trend are the minority in the PA.

In a historical irony, the PA leadership has chosen defiantly to march the Palestinians in the exact opposite direction, toward a closed, isolated state-controlled economy in a militaristic society.

The price for choosing this option will be paid by the Palestinians and by their closest neighbor, Israel.

Inbari and Hellman are, respectively, director of research and senior researcher at the Institute for Peace Implementation, a Jerusalem-based think-tank studying permanent status issues.

Not so equal

JACOB CHINITZ

Something that has gotten overlooked in the controversy surrounding non-Orthodox conversions is the nature of halachic conversion itself.

The Orthodox rabbinate has been accused of making conversion difficult for the tens of thousands of technically non-Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

The non-Orthodox rabbinate claim they have the right, in the name of democracy and pluralism, to conduct conversion procedures. To push that claim, the Masorti rabbinate in Israel, say their conversions are conducted according to the strict demands of Halacha.

But what about those demands? Exactly what status within Judaism does Halacha grant to the convert? The question merits a good look.

It is a common assumption that the talmudic expression "Ger shenitgayer kekatan shenolad" (one who is converted is like a newborn child) and the ruling "Hare hu kiyehudi lekol davar" (he is like a Jew in all respects) indicate a full, open-armed welcome to the convert - a welcome that incorporates the granting of equal status within the religion and the community, including overlooking the convert's non-Jewish past.

Perhaps the non-Orthodox rabbis would gain more sympathy for their position - especially from left-wing Orthodox people and secularists who insist that the Orthodox monopoly is justified in the name of authenticity and unity of the faith - if they were to point out that official Halacha does not overlook the past of the convert, and that it does not quite grant equal status to the convert in all respects.

FOLLOWING are some exam-

Masorti rabbis should stress that Halacha does not accept converts as full-fledged Jews

ples from Halacha that dispute heretofore comfortable assumptions:

1. A cohen (member of the priestly caste) may not marry a convert, because it is assumed that in her past life the convert was promiscuous. She is therefore classified as a zona ("loose woman"), who is prohibited in marriage to a cohen.

2. While a born Jew is not allowed to marry a mamzeret, the offspring of adultery or incest, a convert is allowed to marry such an offspring. The reason given is because "Kahal gerim lo iri kahal" (The congregation of converts is not considered a congregation).

3. A convert is disqualified from being king in Israel - no great problem today you might say, because Israel has no king.

But by extension, a convert may not hold any public office such as dayan (judge in a rabbinical court). A convert of my acquaintance was almost disqualified by the rabbinate from serving as an IDF chaplain for this very reason.

It is true that these halachic rulings are contradicted in spirit by other passages in our sources calling the convert ger tzadek (righteous proselyte) and exalting the convert to the status of participant in the revelation at Sinai.

Great talmudic sages such as Onkelos, Shmaya and Avtalyon are identified as converts - and, of course, the great-grandmother of King David is identified as a convert, Ruth the Moabitess.

There is also the statement that "The Holy One, Blessed be He, exiled Israel among the nations in order to add converts to them."

But those same sources of Jewish lore - Aggadah and Midrash - contain amideus indicating the opposite view, one going so far as to say that converts are "as difficult for Israel as disease."

The crucial issue is what Jewish law, as it presently stands, lays down as being the legal position of the convert, and his or her prestige in the community - and that is questionable.

Non-Orthodox rabbis are therefore missing a bet in raising these issues as they fight for their right to convert, and for the right to have their converts recognized as "full Jews."

If Reform and Conservative rabbis win their fight, they may gain recognition as full rabbis.

But according to Halacha as it is now, their converts will never quite attain the status of "full Jews."

The writer is a Conservative rabbi who lives in Jerusalem.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

APPEAL FOR VISION

Sir, - I recently flew into the region after a series of speaking engagements and official meetings in Europe. As the plane negotiated its way over this ancient city, I was once again reminded of the uniqueness it represents to many peoples the world over. I wondered, as I have time and time again, whether there is any other city on earth which resounds in people's hearts and minds the way Jerusalem does.

stand at crossroads. We have an opportunity to shape an existence here modeled on its rich diversity and diffuse complexities. We can acknowledge the connections which people have to Jerusalem, even if they are not from our own community, and thereby safeguard a comprehensive solution built on the richness of our different claims and attachments.

The time has come for all peoples - politicians, government officials, NGOs, religious and community leaders - to move beyond fixated stereotypes and rhetorical soliloquies regarding our universal city. Creative and comprehensive solutions ought to recognize that every side will be required to make visionary but painful compromises in relation to their own claim and feelings. This in itself requires bold as much as forthright collective leadership. Jews, Christians and Moslems all have their histories, destinies and futures inextricably and unquestionably intertwined with Jerusalem. I hope they will be willing to forge ahead for the greater good of all those who cherish it.

HARRY HAGOPIAN The Middle East Council of Churches

We who love or live in this city

Jerusalem.

PESSIMISM

Sir, - Abba Eban ("Hong Kong and Israel," July 4) discusses those who chose to "see a chance of maintaining the military results of the Six Day War as Israel's permanent strategy." He finds this view in error, as he writes, it "derived from biblical, messianic emotions that sprang from ancient memories. It never had any foundation in current power balances. To believe this view, it was necessary to assume that the Arab world would 'adapt itself' to the loss of territories."

How is this view different from the view of Zionism? Isn't our return to our land based on "ancient memories" - our national anthem speaks of a 2,000-year-old hope! Were the "power balances" in our favor in 1948, let alone the years before that? And the territories "lost" by the Arab world include Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem, not only the territories conquered in 1967. Will the Arab world "adapt itself" to that loss?

It is to our benefit that Mr. Eban did not have this sense of pessimism when he represented us at the founding of the state.

DAVID CURWIN

Kvutzat Yavne.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 Years Ago, July 16, 1937 Emir Abdullah of Trans-Jordan, interviewed by a special correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph said that while he was naturally disappointed by the findings of Lord Peel's Royal Commission on Palestine it must be accepted, provided that there was adjustment of certain points which harshly affected Arabs.

exploded under a cruising patrol truck near Mahaneh Yehuda and another in Mea She'arim. Sirens brought all civilian traffic to a standstill for hours. Searches were carried out in the areas of explosions, and all clear was sounded long after midnight.

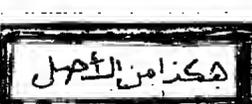
25 Years Ago, July 16, 1972 The American Ramparts magazine reports that during the Six Day War, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan intended to order Israeli troops to take Damascus and Cairo, but changed his mind under intense US pressure. US officials declined to comment on this story when it made The New

York Times's front page. The Ramparts article had also claimed that the US had refined its electronic devices to the point of breaking all Soviet codes.

15 Years Ago, July 16, 1982 US says Arab world must find home for the PLO terrorists holed up by Israel in Beirut.

10 Years Ago, July 16, 1987 India has suddenly barred Israeli visitors from visiting the country. Foreign minister Shimon Peres declares that the ban which follows Yasser Arafat's representations was scandalous.

Alexander Zvielli



AIDS is killing fewer Americans

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN

WASHINGTON — AIDS deaths continue to decline in the United States, and the trend is expected to go on, federal health officials said this week.

The number of deaths dropped 19 percent, to 30,700 from 37,900, in the first nine months of 1996, compared with the same period of 1995.

Among women, the number of deaths dropped for the first time.

The overall decline was attributed to greater access to medical care and to development of newer drug therapies for both the AIDS virus and for the myriad of opportunistic infections that can occur as fatal complications of AIDS, itself a potentially fatal disease.

Worldwide, AIDS cases and AIDS deaths are on the increase, and experts have said that the combination drug therapies that have helped reduce deaths in the US are unlikely to have a similar impact in the regions of Africa and Asia where the disease is growing.

The cost and difficulty of administering the therapies are barriers to their effective use in poor countries.

The decline in the US began before the first protease-inhibitor drug was marketed in December 1995, said Dr. Helene Gayle, who heads the AIDS programs of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in Atlanta.

Dr. Gayle and advocates for people with AIDS said they were heartened by the good news, particularly because some public-health officials had suggested that improvements reported earlier by New York City and the CDC were due to incomplete reporting or statistical quirks.

"We have entered a new era in the HIV epidemic, both in terms of treatment and prevention," Dr. Gayle said at

a news conference.

The number of people living with AIDS has increased 10% since mid-1995, Dr. Gayle said. But she and speakers from the AIDS Action Council, a Washington-based national advocacy organization that says it represents 1,400 AIDS service organizations, expressed deep concern about the disproportionate rates of decline in AIDS deaths among men, women and minority groups.

Deaths of women decreased by 7%, compared with the 22% decline in deaths among men. Yet, in the first six months, deaths among women had risen 3%. No explanation for the reversal was given. Of all AIDS cases now, 80% are in men and 20% are in women.

While the number of deaths dropped 28% for whites, the drop was 10% for blacks and 16% for Hispanics.

In reporting data for the first six months of 1996, health officials earlier announced a 13% drop in the number of deaths.

Over the longer period, the decrease grew to 19%.

Dr. Gayle said that her federal agency would analyze AIDS case reports to try to determine what proportion of the improved death rates was due to older and newer combinations of drugs to combat HIV and opportunistic infections.

The four marketed protease-inhibitor drugs are vastly improving the condition of many people with the human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS. But the drugs have not worked for many other people, either because they cannot adhere to the rigid schedules required for such therapy or because the therapy has failed them.

"Thus far, we do not think that the full effect of protease inhibitors has

kicked in, in this country because of low use among many groups, particularly the poor, Dr. Gayle said. "We hope that with more and more people getting protease inhibitors, we may see an even greater effect on the death rate."

However, Dr. Gayle and the AIDS Action Council warned that the gaps would widen if the newer drug therapies were not made available to more people with HIV. A government-appointed panel of AIDS experts recommended last month that combination anti-HIV therapy be offered to infected individuals.

A survey conducted by AIDS Project Los Angeles found that knowledge about such drug therapy was low among blacks and non-English-speaking people with HIV, and that access to protease inhibitors was limited among many uninsured and poorly educated groups.

One reason behind the optimism expressed this week is that the incidence of new AIDS cases has slowed dramatically in recent years.

The increase in AIDS cases was 2% in 1995, the latest year for which data are available, a large drop from the increase of 85% per year in the mid-1980s. Dr. Gayle said that if the trend continued as expected, the incidence of AIDS cases could drop for the first time when the data for 1996 are fully analyzed and reported later this year.

"New AIDS cases are now increasing most rapidly among women, particularly minorities," Dr. Gayle said, and "heterosexual transmission is the fastest growing mode of transmission." However, it takes several years for HIV infection to develop into AIDS. And at least 40,000 new HIV infections are occurring each year, Dr. Gayle said.

(New York Times)



A decade after this AIDS patient was treated in New York, the US may be stemming the spread of HIV. (Brian Henders)

A token farewell for the two-fare commuter

By NEIL MACFARQUHAR

NEW YORK — Tens of thousands of New Yorkers altered their lifetime commuting patterns last week, jettisoning their subway tokens in exchange for the rectangular plastic Metrocards that put virtually the entire city within the reach of one \$1.50 fare.

Given that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority introduced the system of free transfers on the Fourth of July holiday, Monday's commute was considered the true test. Officials braced for long lines at the subway booths, but it appeared that the advertising blitz had convinced most riders to buy cards ahead of time.

At major bus-to-subway transfer points in the like Flatbush in Brooklyn, Main Street in Queens, and 149th Street in the Bronx, there were the usual Monday morning lines of up to 20 commuters waiting to buy their fares. What was different was the scene at the turnstiles. Hundreds of transit employees were deployed to smooth the way for riders finding their inaugural passage with the Metrocard about as easy as learning a new dance.

Eva Chie, a transit employee stationed at the 149th Street-Grand Concourse station in the Bronx, came up with her own mantra that she chanted as many new users did their version of what might be called the Metrocard Twist. Riders would put the card through the machine too fast, too slowly or with the magnetic strip facing the wrong way. When they tried to pass anyway, they would get a painful clang in the thighs, and then twist around to find out what went wrong.

"Don't slide, swipe," Ms. Chie sang out repeatedly, raising the success rate significantly. She would swipe the cards herself for those who could not get the choreography down.

The new Metrocards should mean about \$750 in annual savings for the estimated 350,000 commuters in the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn who used to pay two fares when they switched between buses and the subway or sometimes between buses. Transfers within a two-hour period are now free with Metrocards, but not with tokens. Metrocard purchases have surged as a result.

Officials said it appeared that 50 percent of the fares sold over the weekend were Metrocard sales. Before the free transfers, about 30% of the MTA's riders, or 1.6 million a day, were using Metrocards, officials said.

"This is the card that sells itself," said Christopher Boylan, the authority's deputy executive director. "It looks like it is going to be a tremendous success." At the 179th

Street Station in Queens, the last stop for the F train, the clerks usually collect 12,000 tokens after the 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. morning rush hour, said Theo Heston, the authority's field manager. On Monday, they collected just 7,000.

The Straphangers Campaign, the riders advocacy group, said its only reservation about the switch to the cards was the lack of weekly or monthly discounts. The first such discount will not be introduced until January, when the MTA will start selling cards that carry 11 fares for the price of 10.

But the main frustration seemed to come from learning to use the cards. Some riders tried to put them through with the plastic wrappers still on them. Some did not notice that they had used up all the money on their cards. And some boiled over as they watched the train doors slide shut across the platform as they swiped and swiped to no avail.

"This stuff is aggravating me today," said Jackie Johnson, who lives and works in the Bronx but was heading into Manhattan for various errands. She swiped five or six times before getting through, and then missing a train. "All this stuff doesn't help the service. And the train sure isn't going to wait for you."

Although the Transit Authority expects millions of people to go back to riding buses, the end of the two-fare zones has apparently not had a significant impact yet on the private van services that zip around Queens.

Also, some riders were giving the MTA a windfall because they did not understand how the transfers work when several passengers use the same card. When riders first enter the bus or the subway, they can run the card through a fare box or turnstile once each for up to four riders. Then, at the transfer point, the card need only be run through once to get all the transfers. Some groups of transferring riders were pushing it through three and four times, losing a fare with each swipe.

Getting money back when things went wrong did not appear easy.

Janice Gresham, a postal worker in Flushing, N.Y., tried to transfer from the subway to a bus at the last stop of the E train at Jamaica Center. Her card had \$16 on it Monday morning, but when she got on the bus to go home it read "Error." An MTA supervisor told her that she had to mail in the card for a refund.

"In the meantime, I have to buy a new card and pay money all over again," Ms. Gresham said. "But I travel in a two-fare zone, so I have no choice." (New York Times)



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121: J.S. Bach: Cantata Magnificat - Schola Cantorum of Oxford, Northern Chamber Orchestra, Nicholas Ward conducting.



122: Granados: 12 Spanish Dances - Norbert Kraft, Guitar, Razumovsky Sinfonia, conducted by Peter Breiner.



123: Mozart: Così fan Tutte (highlights) - Slovak Philharmonic Chorus (SPC), Capella Istropolitana, conducted by Johannes Wildner.



124: Prokofiev: String Quartets 1 & 2, Cello Sonata - Aurora String Quartet, Michael Grebanier, Janet Guggenheim.



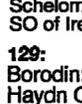
125: Puccini: Tosca (highlights) - SPC, Czecho-Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, under Alexander Rahbari.



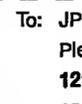
126: Puccini: Madama Butterfly (highlights) - SPC, Czecho-Slovak RSO, Alexander Rahbari.



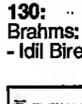
127: Beethoven: String Quartets Nos. 1 & 2, Kodaly Quartet.



128: Tchaikovsky: Rocooco Variations, Nocturne; Bruch: Kol Nidrei; Bloch: Schelomo - Maria Kliegel, cello, National SO of Ireland, conducted by Gerhard



129: Borodin: String Quartets Nos. 1 & 2, Haydn Quartet.



130: Brahms: Hungarian Dances, Waltzes - Idil Biret, piano.



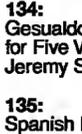
131: Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf; Britten: The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra; Saint-Saens: Carnival of the Animals, English Narration, Czecho-Slovak RSO, Ondrej Lenard.



132: Rodrigo: Concerto de Aranjuez, Castelnovo-Tedesco; Villa-Lobos: Concertos for Guitar and Orchestra, Norbert Kraft, Northern Chamber Orchestra, Nicholas Ward.



133: Italian Concerti Grossi: Sammartini, Albinoni, Geminiani, Vivaldi, Locatelli, etc. Capella Istropolitana, Jaroslav Kr(e)chek.



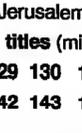
134: Gesualdo - Complete Sacred Music for Five Voices, Oxford Camerata, Jeremy Summerly conducting.



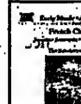
135: Spanish Festival: Glinka, Elgar, Massenet, etc. Czecho-Slovak RSO, conducted by Keith Clark.



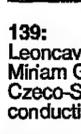
136: Invitation to Dance: Ballet Music from Faust, Giselle, Lakme, etc. Czecho-Slovak RSO, Ondrej Lenard.



137: Grieg/Johansen: String Quartets, Oslo String Quartet.



138: French Chansons: Josquin Desprez, Jannequin, etc. The Scholars of London.



139: Leoncavallo: I Pagliacci (highlights). Miriam Gauci, Nicola Martinucci, Czecho-Slovak RSO, Alexander Rahbari conducting.



140: Mahler: Symphony No. 1 "Titan," Polish NRSO under Michael Halasz.



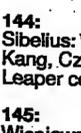
141: Mozart: Arias and Duets from magic Flute, Don Giovanni, etc. Andrea Martin, Donna Robin, Capella Istropolitana, Vienna Mozart Orchestra, Konrad Leitner conducting.



142: Rimsky-Korsakov: Sheherazade/Tzar Saltan, Philharmonia Orchestra, London, Enrique Batiz conducting.



143: Shostakovich: String Quartets Nos. 4, 6, 7, Eder Quartet.



144: Sibelius: Violin Concerto, Dong-Suk Kang, Czecho-Slovak RSO, Adrian Leaper conducting.



145: Wieniawski: Violin Showpieces, Marat Bisengaliev, violin, John Lenehan, piano.

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Catchin' the Trane

By DAVID ISAACSON

If there's any such thing as a perfect man, I think John Coltrane was one. And I think that kind of perfection has to come from a greater force than there is here on earth. — Elvin Jones

This accolade from Coltrane's drummer — and it is a comment typical of those who loved Coltrane — might seem strange, given the great sax player's long-standing addiction to heroin, his marital infidelities, remoteness from other people, and, on account of the demands he made of his listeners, a frequently hostile, uncomprehending public and press. So why, 30 years after he died of liver cancer on July 17, 1967, do Coltrane devotees use terms like "genius," "prophet" and "saint" when describing their hero?

Take the album *African Brass* (1961), recently re-released by Impulse and its local distributor Hed Artzi (see box). This is as resonant a testament to universal spirituality as has ever been composed or played. Miles Davis had already made the breathtakingly beautiful impressionist classic *Sketches of Spain*. Coltrane went further, he painted Africa. Coltrane's Africa was not a political place, nor even a physical one, but rather a mystical sense, an atmospheric rhythm, movement around a primal beat or, as the metaphysicians would have it, an idea. It was Coltrane's representation of God's state of mind when He created Africa.

Don't be misled by the album's title: *African Brass* is not a black-roots thing. The album's 10-minute version of the "Greensleeves" attributed to Henry VIII is tender, innocent and as playful as, say, "Chasin' the Trane."

COLTRANE WAS obsessed by music. He took his sax to the dinner table, he fell asleep with it in his mouth, even in that post-gig twilight zone when most jazz musicians would go to great lengths to recover from the show, Coltrane would be practicing, alone in his hotel room. Coltrane became the sax.

Listen to any of his recorded, 15-minute-plus versions of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "My Favorite Things" and you will forget what you're listening to — you'll simply get swept away by the music. It's not surprising that Coltrane was attracted to the song's melody and indeed its sentiment. His biographer John Frawley quotes him as saying: "I think the main thing a musician would like to do is to give a picture to the listener of the many wonderful things he knows of and senses in the universe."

Coltrane's virtuosity was such that it would be difficult to imagine a serious sax player who is not

influenced by him. As Davis, who was never exactly lavish in his compliments, says in his autobiography, "Trane was the only player who could play those chords I gave him without them sounding like chords."

Apart from *African Brass*, 1961 was the year of the Davis masterpiece *Someday My Prince Will Come* (featuring Coltrane), on which the understated beauty of the great trumpeter's vision is expressed with even greater clarity than on the more famous *Kind of Blue*. Yet more significantly, it was the year Coltrane completed the lineup of his finest band by bringing in bassist Jimmy Garrison to join pianist McCoy Tyner and Elvin Jones. It was also the year the Impulse label's Bob Thiele decided to record the quartet's performances at New York's Village Vanguard.

In those days, jazz albums were supposed to be a collection of five-minute songs. It was like demanding that a poet condense his sonnet into a load of one-and-a-half liners. Thiele, however, gave Coltrane free rein to express himself, not only in the artificial confines of the studio but in the jazz musician's natural habitat — the gig.

Coltrane was the innovative spirit behind free form, which made him a prophet of a decade as tumultuous aesthetically as it was socially. The Sixties swung after Coltrane's style; he was the godfather of psychedelia, with albums like *Ascension* exploring spaces which would frighten the most intrepid rock hero.

BORN IN 1926 in Hamlet, North Carolina, Coltrane moved to Philadelphia at age 18. During World War II he played with the US Navy Band, after which he joined up with the likes of Eddie Vinsoo and Dizzy Gillespie.

He joined the Miles Davis Quintet in 1955 and by 1960 he had formed his own quartet. His first wife, Naama, came from an extremely musical family; but he eventually left her for Alice McLeod, who became his band's pianist and his wife.

Significantly, she said that Coltrane married her "not because I was a musician; [he would have wanted] any woman who had the particular attributes or qualities to help him fulfill his life mission as God wanted him to."

The main source of Coltrane's inspiration was indeed his faith in God. "My goal is to live the truly religious life, and express it in my music," he said. "My music is the spiritual expression of what I am — my faith, my knowledge, my being." A devout Moslem, Coltrane's religiosity was clearly not socially or politically motivated.

On the liner notes to the landmark album *A Love Supreme*, he



John Coltrane was so obsessed with music that he would fall asleep with the sax in his mouth.

wrote: "During the year 1957, I experienced, by the grace of God, a spiritual awakening which was to lead me to a richer, fuller, more productive life. At that time in graduate, I humbly asked to be given the means and privilege to make others happy through music.

I feel this has been granted through His grace." The titles of the album's tracks hint at the musician's spirituality: "Acknowledgment"; "Resolution"; "Pursuance/Psalm." The incantatory, supplicatory rhythms and deeply respectful tone

of *A Love Supreme* were also inspired by the death of Eric Dolphy. The co-creator with Coltrane of so-called anti-jazz (the critic Leonard Feather was particularly scathing), Dolphy died in 1964, leaving Coltrane feeling "touched by God."

Act on Impulse

The release of 57 titles from the Impulse label, including 13 by John Coltrane, is certainly not at the expense of new talent.

Avisar Savir of Hed Artzi, Impulse's local distributor, points to the series' inclusion of many new recordings by the likes of Eric Reed and Donald Harrison. The latter's *Nouveau Swing* is a particularly impressive example of contemporary jazz — mature, accessible and authoritative. There are also new discs by Danilo Perez and Michael Brecker, both of whom have played here.

Furthermore, Savir, whose knowledge and appreciation of jazz is remarkable for a 25-year-old, dreams of discovering a great new local talent. Meanwhile, he says that the brevity of some of the Impulse classics — McCoy Tyner's *Inception* is only just over 30 minutes — is compensated for by their "mid-price"

range: NIS 35 to NIS 55. And for those diehards who miss vinyl and big sleeves, Impulse has digitally remastered the classics, and retained the original liner notes in attractive booklets.

Savir says that the biggest-selling jazz CDs (such as Miles Davis's *Kind of Blue*) move only "a couple of thousand" copies in this country. But this is a good place for jazz lovers, he says. He points to annual events such as the Red Sea Jazz Festival, which regularly attracts big names from abroad and numerous aspiring locals, and also our geographical location, which affords us proximity to American, European and "ethnic" sounds.

Buying jazz discs is risky. By definition, you don't know how the musicians are going to play. But jazz is like people: Sometimes you wind up loving the piece you initially hated. —D.J.

Iran's movie genius

By MATT REES

Iranian films have been getting rave reviews at film festivals all over the world for the last several years. For Israelis, however, they have been off-limits, one of the long list of victims of the Mad Mullahs and their desire to isolate Israel.

That's changing now, with the showing here of four films by

latest film, *A Moment of Innocence*, at the Toronto Film Festival last year. Azrieli asked the co-producers at MK2 in Paris for the rights to distribute the film here. She fully expected another refusal.

Instead, the reply came that the films would be made available. Perhaps it was because the head of MK2, Marin Karmiz, is Jewish. Still, "I don't know really why they said yes this time," says Azrieli.

Djodai, who tells the story of her forbidden love for a stranger to the tribe. As we view the life of the tribe, we find the making of rugs a mirror for the rhythms of life. The colors of the rugs "are life," as Gabbeh shouts out.

The film's beautiful colors are almost too rich to believe, as layered as the different story lines that run through it. In one stunning scene, Gabbeh's uncle (Abbas Sayah) reaches up out of the shot to point at the sky and when he brings his hand back down into view it is covered in blue paint. He points at the sun and his hand turns yellow.

On August 1, the Tel Aviv Museum will be showing *A Moment of Innocence*, in which Makhmalbaf tackles the political struggles of his youth and their effect on his life and the lives of others.

When he was a youth, Makhmalbaf stabbed a policeman as part of his own struggle against the shah's regime. Makhmalbaf was imprisoned. Years later, the policeman tracked down the director and the two men made a film about the incident from their own different perspectives. The result is a marvelous film that's about both politics and its consequences. The policeman was in love with a girl who passed his post each day. He had intended to give her a flower on the day when he was attacked, but he never saw her after that. Makhmalbaf portrays the girl as part of the plot to stab the policeman. (Note: *A Moment of Innocence* has Hebrew subtitles only.)

The film festival is screening two other films by Makhmalbaf this weekend.

From tomorrow to Saturday, *Salam Cinema* recalls Makhmalbaf's auditions for a film that would record the history of cinema. *Time of Love*, which shows Friday and Saturday, is a love story told three different ways, each time with a sharply different conclusion.

The rise and rise of Bill Clinton

By RUTHIE BLUM

The rise of Bill Clinton is the stuff fairy-tales are made of — particularly of the "American dream" variety. As the Chaonel 8 biography *Bill Clinton* (Sunday, 9 p.m.) emphasizes, even a boy from a backwa-



Even a boy from a backwater Arkansas town can end up in the Oval Office.

ter Arkansas town, raised by working-class grandparents and subsequently by a mother and abusive stepfather, can end up in the Oval Office.

Even a Vietnam War draft dodger, who publicly admits to having tried marijuana.

Described in this TV biography as an "unflappable guy," the ambitious, saxophone-wielding Clinton not only made it to the White House, but got elected to a second term, in spite of numerous scandals surrounding his personal and political careers. Local viewers might be struck

by the many parallels between the subject of this documentary and Israel's own "fairy-tale" prime minister. But there is one major difference: in this TV special, the Republican opposition is put down for having a serious agenda, while the sex and money scandals attached to the country's leader are glossed over (the Whitewater and Travel Office scandals are given scarce mention).

Even Hillary Clinton's attack on her predecessor, Barbara Bush, for having "stayed home to bake cookies" is given a positive slant, in contrast to the Israeli media's scathing attack on Sara Netanyahu for having made similar statements about her predecessor, Sonia Peres.

"Whatever one may think of his politics or his character," says the narrator Jack Perkins at the end of the film, "there is no denying that over the years Bill Clinton has displayed unshakable resolve in realizing his goals, in living his dreams."

After watching this film, one gets the impression that there is nothing one could possibly find offensive about Bill Clinton's character, or for that matter, politics.

While this is a somewhat two-dimensional profile of a highly complex man, it is nevertheless informative and enjoyable to watch.



NEWS of the muse

Gefen gets the go-ahead

Army Radio will broadcast Aviv Gefen's concert live from the Arad Festival tonight despite attempts to stop it by Moshe Peled, Deputy Minister of Education and Sport. His office released a letter to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai which requested the minister to "order Army Radio not to broadcast" the performance of an artist who "not only has never worn an army uniform... but has openly defamed service in the IDF, its soldiers and its officers."

Army Radio says that "the performance by Aviv Gefen at Arad is part of a national festival of Hebrew song which is funded by the Education Ministry."

We shall broadcast his concert just as we have chosen to broadcast that of others, such as Mani Caspi. These broadcasts pay tribute to the artists' talent."

This is Peled's second attempt to silence Gefen. Earlier he wrote to the heads of the country's youth movements requesting them to boycott the concert because of Gefen's "anti-Israel behavior." The singer currently resides in London. Helen Kaye

English Song Competition

Songwriters and lyricists sharpen their quills. The AACI Southern Region is announcing the second English Song Competition for original songs in English.

The finals will be in Beersheba on November 13. Prizes include professional studio recording time, hotel holiday packages, a trophy and more. The deadline for registration is September 9. For info: (07) 623-0688 (Katrina, mornings) or (07) 610-2533 (Robby, evenings).

Helen Kaye

Celebrating Choreography

Third-year Ruben Music and Dance Academy student Eynat Zuta won the first Hania Levy-Agron prize for young choreographers with *This Thing ... and*. The award, worth \$1,000, honors Levy-Agron, a local contemporary dance pioneer who founded the school of dance and who still teaches there. Now in its 19th year, the Gertrude Kraus choreography competition awarded first, second and third prizes to, respectively, Hagit Zargari for *Put on a Little Lipstick and You'll Be Pretty*, Hagit Zitomer for *Me and My Grandmother's Chair*, and Sarit Bendit for *Alone Together*.

Every year thousands of talented youngsters audition for the coveted spots in Matan's (Arts and Culture Project for Youth) workshops and seminars in the performing and plastic arts run by the Community Centers Association. This year Matan took 500 of the 2,000 who auditioned in music, dance, theater, writing, the plastic arts and video dance, a new category. Participants will kick off their year's activity in summer camp at Givat Haviva near Hadera.

Helen Kaye

In honor of an Auschwitz victim

The Israel Musicological Society last week honored the memory of composer James Simon, who died in Auschwitz in 1944. At the society's annual conference, soprano Gila Yaron, cellist Shmuel Magen and pianist Allan Sternfield performed Simon's *Lament for Cello*, his *Sonata for Violin and Cello* and various songs.

The performance was a collaboration between the Terezin Music Memorial Project and Tel Aviv University Musicological Department, with the assistance of Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority and the Goethe Institute. Musician and scholar Professor David Bloch organized and introduced the performances. Michael Aizenstadt

Volunteers given a voice

Welcome the World 1997 at Kibbutz Ramat David on August 15 and 16 is the fourth festival of its kind dedicated to the many volunteers serving at the country's kibbutzim. Ramat David is in the Jezreel Valley, and the festival promotes "peace in the area with the loudest possible voice," say the organizers. Performers include Mississippi (blues), Black and Blues (blues, funk, soul) and New York rapper Mr. Groove.

Helen Kaye

ICO in Europe

The Israel Chamber Orchestra is on its way to perform at the Festival Mincel Europa in Germany and the Czech Republic. Philippe Entremont, the ICO's principal conductor, will lead the ICO in works by Mendelssohn, Dvorak, Telemann, Zelenka and Hader.

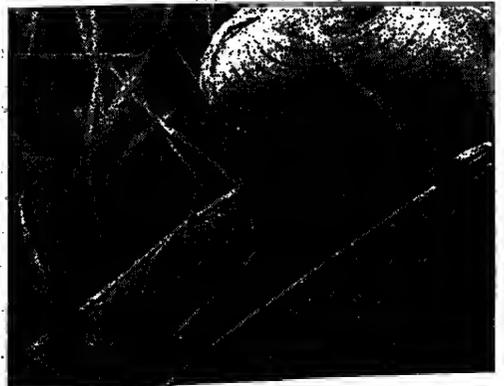
Michael Aizenstadt

Another Odd Couple

Neil Simon, 70, is working on a sequel to *The Odd Couple*, entitled *The Odd Couple II - Travelling Light*. And his new play *Proposals*, about love and relationships set at a summer cottage in the Pocono Mountains, has just premiered in Los Angeles.

Simon says that 40 years' experience writing TV, movie and Broadway hits doesn't make his work any easier. "Maybe the first draft you think is easier," he said. "But after you're up to the eighth draft, you think, 'I've got to plug up all these holes.'"

AP



Ring-weaver Gabbeh tells the story of her forbidden love.

Mohsen Makhmalbaf, one of Iran's most interesting and skilled directors. Four of his films are showing at the Jerusalem Film Festival and, during the next few weeks, two of them will be screened at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

The films came to our screens through the persistence and luck of Smadar Azrieli, who heads the distribution company SHB Films in Tel Aviv. Azrieli watched recent Iranian films like *The White Balloon* captivate audiences around the world, but she was barred from bringing them to Israel. After seeing Makhmalbaf's

Makhmalbaf's work is not simple cinema, but with his 1995 film *Gabbeh* (showing at the Tel Aviv Museum from Friday) he made an accessible movie that demonstrates his genius.

Gabbeh sprang from the director's desire to record the life of the nomadic Gashgai tribes in southeastern Iran and their artistic rugs. A *Gabbeh* is one of these rugs, which are made with different colors that record the scenery the nomads pass and the things that happen to them. Gabbeh also is the name of the film's main character (played by Sbaghdayh

book department

SYRIA AND ISRAEL

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Moshe Ma'oz examines the history of relations between Israel and Syria throughout the Middle Eastern conflict, demonstrating its crucial importance for the strategic posture of both countries, for the fate of the Palestinian problem, and for the prospects of an overall Middle East peace settlement. Published by Oxford University Press, 1995. Hardcover, 262 pp.

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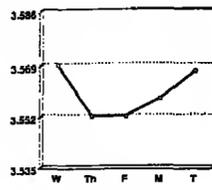
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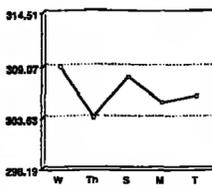
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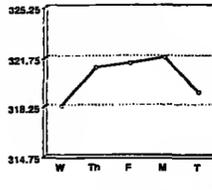
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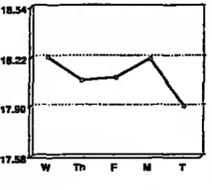
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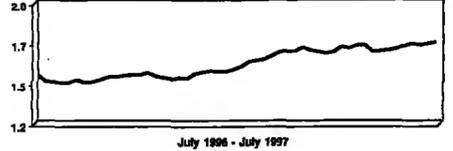
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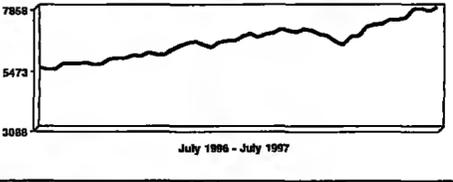
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NIS 600m. budget cut to come before cabinet

By DAVID HARRIS

The additional NIS 600 million budget cut proposed by the Treasury for 1997 will come before the cabinet on Sunday, following a meeting yesterday between Prime Minister Biyamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel.

According to Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef, the three agreed on the need to reduce the deficit to meet the government's target of 2.8 percent of GDP.

Bank of Israel research head Leo Leiderman has predicted that otherwise, the budget deficit could end the year NIS 2 billion above the target.

Following the meeting, Yosef refused to confirm the exact amount to be cut, or say where the ax will fall.

While the prime minister is known to favor an across-the-board reduction, some senior Treasury officials would rather choose where the cuts should be made.

Israel Radio yesterday reported that the reduction will be as little as NIS 500m.

Asked about the possibility of using tax hikes to reach the deficit goal, Netanyahu said he was not prepared to hypothesize at this point.

He also denied that the coalition demands he had agreed to before



Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel (left) and Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman discuss the need to reduce the deficit with Prime Minister Biyamin Netanyahu yesterday. (Brian Henkler)

the recent round of ministerial changes were as costly as the media claims.

"I was shocked to read of price

tags being put on our own commitments," said Netanyahu. "Not everyone is capable of entering the spirit of competition. These

include the old, the sick and problematic children. The government is already committed to care for all."

TAAS signs outsourcing agreement with EDS

By STEVE RODAN

EDS and TAAS, Israel Military Industries, have signed what the two companies called the largest outsourcing agreement to date, in which EDS will handle all of TAAS's current computerized activities, executives said yesterday.

The EDS contract comprises projects for converting the information system running on a mainframe at TAAS's central computer unit to systems for the company's individual business units. These include financial, marketing and sales, wages and human resources systems and a data warehouse.

Under the agreement, EDS is committed to employing 80 percent of the TAAS computer unit staff under conditions identical to those of their current jobs in the government-owned defense company. TAAS chief information officer Moshe Bar-Shlomo will direct the project with EDS.

"This transaction is the first—and, moreover, innovative—step of its kind in Israel and in the defense industries," TAAS director-general Shlomo Milo said. "It's implementation is part of TAAS's comprehensive organization and management reorganization aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the company's operations and improving profitability."

EDS President Israel Koren said the agreement with TAAS represents a milestone in the field of information systems in Israel.

The company has 9,000 clients in 43 countries.

TAAS issued an outsourcing tender in May 1996 and the final stage decision was reached last August. EDS won the tender in January, following which a team of attorneys was engaged in formulating the agreement.

Meanwhile, Tadiran Com. Ltd. has won a contract to supply \$5 million worth of military communications equipment to an unnamed army in Asia, executives said yesterday.

Lior Almagor, Tadiran's vice president for marketing, said the orders constitute the first stage of that Asian country's comprehensive modernization program.

He said in the next three years Tadiran will vie for future orders totalling another \$30m.

Tadiran will be a subcontractor in the contract for the US firm GTE Government Systems in a project to be financed by US military aid.

Almagor said that in the last few years the Asian country in question had suspended procurement of communications equipment and recently started to modernize such systems. "We hope that satisfying the customer on the project will enable Tadiran Com. to secure a significant segment of total military communications sales to that country."

Executives said the military systems to be supplied by Tadiran will comprise multi-channel radio systems which integrate at several command and control levels.

Tadiran Com.'s current volume of orders stands at \$280m.

Livnat: Bezeq must provide refund

By JUDY SIEGEL

Communications Minister Limor Livnat said her ministry "would not allow the public to be harmed by their lack of awareness that they were charged high rates for overseas calls via Bezeq International if they had not pre-registered with the company."

In a meeting with reporters, Livnat said the ministry had "draconian measures" that it could apply to Bezeq International (BI) to ensure that it refunded charges during the first few days of competition when customers called 014 or 00 and were charged high rates. The ministry has asked legal advisers for their views of the issue.

Livnat said the ministry receives daily reports on the volume of overseas phone calls since Barak and Golden Lines began operating last week.

It also knows the relative share of the three companies, but the ministry would not yet release those figures because they were "not necessarily representative." Livnat declined to say by how much the overseas call market has increased since competition began.

A Bezeq International spokeswoman said, "We are a public company, and any instructions we receive from the ministry we will

carry out. But we haven't received any instructions yet to reimburse customers." She added that whether it is technically possible to refund phone charges for calls made during the first few days of competition—when—according to the ministry—customers were unaware of the company's requirement that lower rates applied only to those who pre-register. Now BI says for those who register by the end of the month, the lower rates will be retroactive to July 8 (a few days after competition actually began). The company claims that "tens of thousands" of customers have already registered by calling 188 or its toll-free number 177-022-1300, giving their name and identity card number. Livnat said ministry experts were also looking into the legality of BI using the 188 overseas dialing information number to register customers.

A Geocartography Institute poll commissioned by BI found that since overseas dialing opened to competition, 77.9% of callers use BI, 14% Barak and 8.1% Golden Lines. BI managing director Ori Yogev said he was satisfied with the results, which were almost identical to the company's marketing forecast. "We expect that when the market stabilizes, we will have more than 50% of the calls and the rest will be divided among our competitors."

According to an agreement with the Communications Ministry, if BI's share falls below 80%, the company may offer additional discounts and attractive packages to its customers.

IDF gives up frequency in phone deal with gov't

By JUDY SIEGEL

The IDF will evacuate radio frequencies in the 900 megahertz range to make room on the spectrum for a third provider of cellular phone services, which will be chosen by a Communications Ministry tender issued Monday.

In return, the IDF will receive \$60 million over a period of six years from the winner of the tender in order to purchase advanced communications equipment that will operate on different frequencies.

The agreement over frequencies, which also will open other parts of the spectrum for other civilian uses, was reached during the past few days by the Finance, Defense, and Communications Ministries.

The third cellular phone company will be assigned the area code 054. Representatives from nearly 200 leading telecommunications companies in Israel and abroad took part in the meeting announcing the issue of the tender. Any consortium that wants to compete must purchase the 122-page document for NIS 30,000 and submit it by October 28 — its proposal with an accompanying unconditional bank guarantee for the equivalent of \$5m.

The third supplier is expected to begin the provision of cellular phone service in competition with Pelephone and Cellcom some time in 1998, but an official date was not stipulated. The interested parties must have a combined net worth of at least \$200m. Israeli citizens and residents must have at least 20% control, and a majority of directors plus the general manager must be Israeli.

Ministry director-general and tender board chairman Daniel Rosenne said he is not satisfied with the quality of service provided by the two cellular phone services, even though they "meet the terms of their licenses" and have done much to improve over the past year. A third provider, he said, would "introduce strong market forces" and encourage the companies to compete for satisfied customers.

Neither the two existing cellular consortia, nor companies that control them, are allowed to participate in the tender. Unlike the previous two tenders, in which offering low rates and good service were primary factors, the ministry decided to give 75% of the points for assessing each bid for the size of the one-time payment to be made to the government for purchasing the rights.

Some of the businessmen present were not too pleased that the ministry spoke of approving yet another cellular phone service supplier after the third is chosen. But ministry officials said the demand for cell phones is so great — 1.5 million Israelis already have one and subscribers are expected to double in a few years — that there was room for more. Some also complained that it was difficult for cellular companies to get permission to erect antennas due to residents' opposition, but were told that a national plan was being prepared to resolve this.

COMPANY RESULTS

Orckit's revenue jumps 153%; losses down

By JENNIFER FRIEDMAN

Orckit Communications Ltd. reported second-quarter net losses of \$236,000, compared to \$845,000 in the corresponding

period one year ago. Revenue exceeded analysts expectations, jumping 153 percent to \$12.9 million from \$5.1m. in the second quarter of 1996.

Orckit develops high-speed modem technology that allows telecommunications providers to offer advanced services.

The Tel Aviv-based company recently announced an agreement to install equipment in 21 Chinese cities, as well as a deal with an undisclosed western European telecommunications operator.

Robomatrix Technologies Ltd., a Ra'anana-based manufacturer of image-processing products, recently reported net losses of \$6.52m. for 1996, a 13% drop over the same period one year ago.

Revenues for the year were down 45% to \$5.65m., compared to \$10.17m. in 1995.

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| Japanese yen (100) | 3.5784 | 0.5905 | 0.57 | 0.60 | 0.5700 |
| Dutch florin | 1.7458 | 1.1281 | 3.02 | 3.18 | 3.1100 |
| Swiss franc | 2.3818 | 2.4502 | 1.71 | 1.80 | 1.7900 |
| Swedish krona | 0.4511 | 0.4584 | 0.44 | 0.47 | 0.4500 |
| Norwegian krona | 0.4481 | 0.4787 | 0.46 | 0.49 | 0.4700 |
| Danish krona | 0.5150 | 0.5254 | 0.56 | 0.58 | 0.5600 |
| Finnish mark | 0.8642 | 0.8750 | 0.80 | 0.84 | 0.8200 |
| Canadian dollar | 2.5821 | 2.5821 | 0.85 | 0.86 | 0.8500 |
| Australian dollar | 2.5773 | 2.6188 | 2.53 | 2.65 | 2.5900 |
| S. African rand | 0.7758 | 2.8840 | 2.54 | 2.68 | 2.6200 |
| Belgian franc (10) | 0.8907 | 0.9881 | 0.70 | 0.79 | 0.7800 |
| Austrian schilling (10) | 2.7988 | 2.8346 | 0.88 | 0.98 | 0.9800 |
| Bullion lire (1000) | 2.7188 | 2.0512 | 2.74 | 2.88 | 2.8500 |
| Jordanian dinar | 4.9884 | 5.0488 | 1.98 | 2.08 | 2.0400 |
| Egyptian pound | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 4.90 | 5.24 | 5.0000 |
| ECU | 3.8775 | 3.9401 | 1.01 | 1.09 | 1.0700 |
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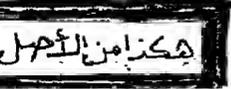
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If you wish to oppose this application you should appear at the Court for Family Affairs in Beersheba before Judge Asulin on September 23 1997 at 10 a.m. to make your position known. If you do not appear at the above hearing the Court will be authorized to discuss the application in your absence.

Therese Lalouah
Coordinator
Court for Family Affairs
Beersheba
Senior Secretary



BEEN HERE In praise of chains

By HAIM SHAPIRO Kurt Ritter may have been born in a little family-owned Swiss hotel, but he believes that the future of the hotel industry lies in the big hotel chains.



Radisson's Kurt Ritter

happy, he says. There is a simple market law: When people invest money, they want a good return. The SAS Radisson group is very flexible with their owners, who own and lease hotels, employ management and have franchise contracts.

Ritter was in Israel recently to attend the reopening of the Tel Aviv Radisson Moriah Plaza following massive renovations. In 1995, Radisson SAS and Moriah Hotels announced a 20-year franchise agreement for the Israeli chain's seven hotels in Israel.

Ritter is aware of the fact that the Israeli tourism market is in the midst of a slump, but he has no regrets about the chain having entered Israel when it did. Tourism, he says, is cyclical. No market is forever up or forever down.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Razing the tax shelter

Britain's newly adopted budget threatens various exemption schemes

By NEIL COHEN

I apologize in advance to readers not hailing from the UK as this week's column is rather singularly aimed at Britons and to a lesser extent ex-Britons. It has probably not gone entirely unnoticed that two weeks ago the newly elected Labor government's first budget was passed.

offshore schemes and foreign domiciles' tax exemption. The Revenue says: "The review will range across the whole tax system. An important aspect... will be the identification of situations in which significant amounts of tax are at risk of leaking from the exchequer." The result will be new legislation in forthcoming finance bills.



arise for Britons abroad. So if you think you could be affected by changes in UK tax law, I would strongly advise that you seek professional advice as soon as possible.

Mr. Brown's budget was cautious, even crafty. Yes, he promised more to health and education, areas the Tories were long accused of underfunding. Yes, the budget looked very prudent, trimming back the public-sector borrowing requirement (the effective measure of the budget deficit). But there were a number of nasty bugbears in the budget, and one of them will in some shape or form apply to many Britons now resident abroad who had thought they had left the UK tax net.

The change was described as a "general anti-avoidance rule." What this means in layman's language is that the government intends as best it can to blur the distinction between illegal tax evasion and carefully planned but perfectly legal tax avoidance.

Brown has commissioned the Inland Revenue to conduct a wide-ranging review "of the whole area of leakage and avoidance of direct taxes," with the explicit goal of "defeating and deterring" tax-avoidance schemes. The review will lead to legislation outlawing all forms of tax avoidance. According to the London Sunday Times, chief targets are thought to be all

One relevant area that Mr. Brown may seek to attack is "potentially exempt transfers." These are gifts which are tax free if the donor lives for seven years after making the gift. This has proved to be an excellent mechanism for escaping the hefty 40 percent inheritance tax which applies to UK assets. If this loophole is tightened, many older people will find their children facing much more significant inheritance

that Jobs received as part of the purchase. Jobs made no comment and Apple sidestepped the matter. Asked outright whether Jobs had dumped his stock, Apple's marketing chief, executive vice-president Guerinio De Luca, said in a conference call with reporters: "I can only say that the board asked him to strengthen his help to us, and his accepting is a sign he cares about this company. Whether he sold the stock is irrelevant to this last point. If he didn't believe he could add value, he wouldn't be accepting the board's request."

De Luca said that Apple was looking for a chief executive who "understands the business Apple is in, who understands the customer and the specifics of what we do; an outbound marketing person who understands the emphasis on the record of both Jobs and Markkula - Jobs picked Sculley, and Markkula kicked out Jobs, then kicked out Sculley, then hired and dismissed both Spindler and Amelio - raises the question of whether Apple can endure another chief-executive selection (and severance package) engineered by the two of them.

tax bills after their death. Various offshore trusts and current legal tax-planning schemes will doubtless also come under review. You have been warned.

There is probably much less than you can do about it, but it looks as though taxes may be up for review in this country as well. Newly appointed Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman is well known as a leading tax expert, and he has already indicated that he plans to introduce reforms to the Israeli taxation system to make it more egalitarian.

The rumors making the rounds at the moment suggest that purchase taxes and direct income tax will be reduced while various exemptions will be stopped. These are likely to include the exemption from tax on rental income from residential property, the exemption from tax on child support payments and old age supplements. The half-point tax credit granted to working women will likely be scrapped while VAT may be raised slightly and extended to cover fruit and vegetables and tourist services. It is also possible that various tax breaks granted to new immigrants may be scrapped or reduced.

At this point, this is all pure speculation. In addition to which, it should be pointed out that most of the tax reforms outlined above have been proposed by the Treasury in the past in one form or another, only to be blocked by political pressure from interest groups. So for all of Mr. Ne'eman's talents and savvy, it is very far from certain that he will be able to get such a basket of reforms to the Knesset, let alone through it. For what it's worth, I personally happen to think that most, if not all of the reforms, are entirely sensible.

Unlike the changes proposed in the UK, there is not much one can do about these modifications, assuming they get through. They are likely to have some kind of impact on the housing market (as a result of changing the tax on rental income), though whether rentals will rise as some owners take their properties off the market, while others raise their rents to maintain their net rental income, or house prices fall as the potential income generated falls remains to be seen. But the change in taxation might have some marginal impact on investors' keenness to buy apartments for investment purposes.

IN TROUBLE

It pays to be an outgoing exec at Apple

By DENISE CARUSO

'Cleptocracy' is a harsh word, but it is the term that some disgruntled employees have been using to describe the governance of Apple Computer Inc. over the last few years - and especially now, when the company is in a mortal struggle for its existence.

What they lament is a style of leadership, practiced by the company's board and three different chief executives in less than four years, that has allowed its revolving-door management to leave with increasingly large sums of cash even as the company's losses mount and its share price cratered.

When John Sculley was deposed by Michael Spindler in 1994 he received a \$3 million severance package. And Spindler, who preceded over one of the company's steepest declines, was paid between

\$3m. and \$4m. to leave Apple, plus the cost of moving to France. Amelio's severance package, it appears, is even more generous.

Apple's board of directors, the legal guardians of shareholders' interest, agreed nearly 18 months ago to a contract that allowed Amelio to resign and still receive his full annual salary until his contract ran out at the end of 2000. If he was asked to leave, which he was, the sum was to double - which it did.

In the end, Amelio is expected to leave with about \$7m., after having been paid almost \$7m. in salary and bonuses in 1996 and receiving stock options worth about \$26m.

He'll fare much better than most other Apple stakeholders. During Amelio's reign, Apple laid off thousands of employees, its stock dropped to a 10-year low, its share of the personal computer market dropped from 9 percent to 3.3%

and the company lost nearly \$1.5b. Some analysts are predicting an additional loss of \$70m. or more when Apple announces its quarterly results this week.

Asked outright whether Jobs had dumped his stock, Apple's marketing chief, executive vice-president Guerinio De Luca, said in a conference call with reporters: "I can only say that the board asked him to strengthen his help to us, and his accepting is a sign he cares about this company. Whether he sold the stock is irrelevant to this last point. If he didn't believe he could add value, he wouldn't be accepting the board's request."

De Luca said that Apple was looking for a chief executive who "understands the business Apple is in, who understands the customer and the specifics of what we do; an outbound marketing person who understands the emphasis on the record of both Jobs and Markkula - Jobs picked Sculley, and Markkula kicked out Jobs, then kicked out Sculley, then hired and dismissed both Spindler and Amelio - raises the question of whether Apple can endure another chief-executive selection (and severance package) engineered by the two of them.

Imagine what the company might have done with all that money - almost \$20m. in chief-executive severance pay alone, plus millions of dollars in stock options, and more than \$400m. for Next. (New York Times)

MUTUAL FUNDS table with columns for Fund's name, unit cost, redemption price, monthly yield (%), and NIS assets (millions). Includes sections for FLEXIBLE, FOREIGN CURRENCY, COMPANY BONDS, MIXED, and STATE BONDS.

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ASSISTANCE



ALL TOGETHER NOW - The Australian delegation renews its determination to participate in the 15th Maccabiah following Monday's tragic events. (Dan Ossendyver/Israel Sun)

Aussies decide to stay

Delegation expresses wish not to miss 'dream of a lifetime'

By JOEL GORDIN

Kfar Maccabiah yesterday resembled the out-patient department of a hospital. Many members of the Australian contingent who came to the Kfar yesterday for a crucial team meeting had their arms and legs in plaster casts, their necks bandaged or hobbled about on crutches. Not all of the nearly-400-strong contingent could make it to the team meeting.

At their meeting, the team decided to stay on and take part in the Maccabiah after they were addressed by President Ezer Weizman.

However, Chef de Mission Louis Platis stressed that each member of the team could reach an individual decision. Earlier, Platis had attended the meeting of the Maccabiah executive and had voted to continue the games after yesterday's day of mourning. Most members of the Australian team agreed with the decision to stay on. To date, there are no reports of any of the team who want to return home, even among those who are injured.

Adam Joseph, a member of the soccer team who severely twisted his neck, said that even if he does not play he is not prepared to end

the "dream of a lifetime." He hopes, however, he will be able to play in two or three days. Many team members admitted that one reason for staying on was the physical distance to Australia and the amount they had paid to take part. The per capita cost for fares and accommodation was \$6,000, although admittedly some sportspeople did receive assistance from the philanthropist Joseph Gurnick.

"If I had been a member of a French or Spanish team, it's possible I would have gone home," said a 24-year-old athlete who broke her leg in the fall from the bridge.

Most of the team members expressed understanding at the decision to continue with the opening ceremony after the bridge collapsed. "If the 45,000 spectators had been told to go home they would have interfered with the rescue work," said one member of the swimming team, repeating one of the main reasons given by the Maccabiah management for not canceling the ceremony.

However, some admitted that the decision not to cancel the show was "hard to swallow."

Ronen Yisraeli, an Israeli-born tennis coach in the Australian team, had already crossed the bridge after it collapsed. He

helped pull injured colleagues from the mud up the steep banks. Among the critically injured was one of his tennis team, 15-year-old Sara Elterman who is still fighting for her life in hospital.

After everybody was safe, he entered the stadium to find his wife who had gone as a spectator. He was amazed to see the performers singing and dancing as if nothing had happened. "It was eerie, surrealistic and a bit sick," he recalls.

At yesterday morning's meeting, a number of team members did, apparently, advocate going home, both out of respect for the two dead members and as a sign of protest for what they called a "totally unnecessary and avoidable disaster."

Then President Weizman arrived at the Kfar and the journalists were asked to leave while he met with the team in private. Afterwards, the President held an impromptu press conference. He told the journalists how he had appealed to the Zionist conscience of the team and that he was happy that he had convinced them to stay. "Nobody opposed my suggestion," he said proudly.

"Throughout the day, a number of Knesset members arrived at the Kfar to show their solidarity with the Australian team.

Truckloads of flowers arrived at the Kfar from well-wishers. A memorial service was held at Modi'in last night where the sportspeople were sworn in (the ceremony had been postponed from Monday night).

For last night's ceremony, all the sportspeople wore black armbands and were asked to wear them during all future sporting events.

Most of the sportspeople from other contingents spent yesterday relaxing or practicing. However the organizers of the sporting department had to work overtime to rearrange the events to make up for the missing day.

The games will not be extended after July 24 and the closing ceremony will be held on schedule. As a result, many of the teams or sportspeople will need to play on successive days, possibly two games in one day.

Games in which Australian teams were scheduled to appear may have to be canceled due to the number of injuries to the players. "It's an enormous logistical undertaking," said sports organizer Yehoram Baruch.

Correction: The Indian cricket team, which was disqualified for its first match, protested the decision to the Maccabiah Organizing Committee and not as stated.

Today's Maccabiah schedule

- Athletics Hadar Yosef: from 16:00.
- Badminton Bet Daut: from 15:00 team competitions (W/M).
- Basketball (men) Nizzanim: 18:00 Israel-Australia, 20:00 Argentina-Canada, Me'ale Efraim: 20:00 Bulgaria-Russia; Yehod, Mercuz Hapoyis: 18:00 USA-Hungary and 20:00 Britain-Brazil; Kibbutz Hazerim: 20:00 Oman-Turkey.
- Basketball (women) Ramat Gan, Winter Hall: Hungary-Israel.
- Ice Hockey Metula, Canada Center: 16:00, Canada-Israel; 19:00 Ukraine-USA.
- Bowls Rishon LeZion: 18:00 women's singles, 14:00 and 17:00 men's pairs.
- Beach volleyball - men Nctanya Beach: 08:00 Brazil-Israel and US-Canada, 11:00 Venezuela-US and Australia-Israel; 16:00 Canada-Venezuela and Israel-Australia.
- Beach volleyball - women Nctanya Beach: 17:00 Israel-USA.
- Bridge Jerusalem Gate Hotel: from 10:00.
- Judo Ra'anana Lev Hapark: from 14:00.
- Cable Waterskiing Tel Aviv Sportek Darom: from 09:00 preliminaries in slalom, tricks and jumps and 12:30 finals in slalom, tricks and jumps.
- Chess Jerusalem Gate Hotel: 15:00 second round.
- Cricket Ashdod: 10:00 Israel-Eritania, Field Hockey - men Hadar Yosef: 09:00 Britain-the Netherlands and 16:00 Israel-South Africa.
- Field hockey - women Hadar Yosef: 07:30 South Africa-USA.
- Karate TA University: from 19:00.
- Golf Casarea: from 8:00.
- Gymnastics Hadar Yosef: from 14:45.
- Handball Wingate: 20:00 Israel-Argentina.
- Mini Soccer Ness Ziona (Sports Hall): 15:00 Israel-Singapore, 16:30 Argentina-Larvia, 18:00 Belgium-Britain, 19:30 Switzerland-Brazil, 21:00 Canada-Croatia, 22:30 Austria-Russia.
- Nethall Herzliya, Metif School: 18:00 Argentina-Eritania and 19:30 Australia-South Africa.
- Rugby Wingate: 17:00 Canada-South Africa, 18:30 USA-Australia, 20:00 Britain-Argentina, 21:30 France-Israel.
- Soccer Hazerim: 16:30 Israel-Sweden; Nabariya: 17:00 Argentina-Germany; Bet-Yam: 19:00 Mexico-Turkey and 21:00 Britain-Brazil; Hazerim: 19:00 Australia-Venezuela and 21:00 South Africa-Colombia. TA University: 19:30 France-USA; Rishon LeZion: 20:00 The Netherlands-Panama.
- Softball Kibbutz Gezer: 12:00 USA-Israel, 15:00 Britain-Panama, 18:00 Canada-Argentina, 21:00 Venezuela-Mexico.
- Squash Herzliya Squash Center: from 08:30.
- Water Polo Wingate: 17:30 Israel-Britain and 19:00 Canada-Brazil.

Maccabiah Hotline: 03-571-5999

Brescia eye Banin

By ORI LEWIS

National team captain Tal Banin looks set to become the first Israeli to play soccer in Italy after extensive contacts between him and Brescia look to be heading to fruition.

Banin, who did not impress the powers-that-be at Liverpool when he went for a trial there in May, had recently also been linked with city rivals Everton, but Banin failed to turn up for an appointment with the club earlier this week.

Banin, who was also linked to a club in France, flies to Italy tonight. According to the Hapoel Haifa player, Brescia, who are newly promoted to the Italian first division this season, have been eyeing him for some time and are intent on signing him.

The club has teetered between the top and the second division recently and, according to Banin, often sold their best players to bigger clubs, leaving them unable to cope with the pressures of Serie A.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER - French winger David Ginola completed an estimated £2 million move from Newcastle to Tottenham yesterday. The London Premier League club announced he had signed a four-year contract.

Run on the Wild Side

Michael Johnson accepts IAAF wild card

DALLAS (AP) - Michael Johnson, happy for the invitation, will be going to the world championships after all.

He received a wild card Monday - as did the other current world champions - from track and field's ruling body for the showcase event next month in Greece.

Johnson, unable to qualify at the US championships because of a leg injury, will defend only his 400-meter title.

"Training is going well and I was hoping this would happen," Johnson said after learning of the unprecedented move by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

The IAAF is allowing the current world champs to compete even if they failed to qualify for national teams.

"I wouldn't be going unless I was 100 percent healthy," Johnson said. "Now, if I can run a smart race I can't be beat."

Johnson, the 1995 world champion and 1996 Olympic gold medalist in the 200 and 400 meters, will run the 400 but not the 200 in Athens.

"I haven't had enough time to get ready for both races," he said. "There is no reason for me to try to double again." Johnson, who is training in Waco, Texas, under Baylor track coach Clyde Hart, said he would run on a relay if asked.

Johnson also will be a television commentator in Greece. "I'll be moving up to the booth after my race, so I can analyze the 100 meters," he said.

He said he was "honored to be treated this way" by the IAAF. "It's in the interests of track and field to have the best athletes in the world competing," IAAF spokesman Giorgio Reineri said.

"Most sports provide their world champions with the opportunity to defend their world titles - snow skiing, ice hockey, soccer - so why shouldn't we? We believe the world champion has the right to defend the title."

The athletes can compete in other events only if they have qualified through their national federation.

Johnson strained his left quadricep during his 150m race against Donovan Bailey on June 1 in Toronto. He has run but once since and lost in the 400m in Paris.

"I came back from Paris and jumped into two-a-day training and lifting weights," he said. "I'm feeling very good now. I'm feeling very confident."

Johnson is one of several US world champions who did not qualify for the team at the June national championships.

Dan O'Brien, the three-time world champion and Olympic gold medalist in the decathlon, missed the nationals because of a stress fracture of the right leg, while sprinters Gwen Torrance (100m) and Gail Devers (100m hurdles) were also injured.

O'Brien was scheduled to have a bone scan on his right shin yesterday to see if his injury has healed. Torrance was en route to the US from Europe.

The IAAF's decision also means world record-holding triple jumper Jonathan Edwards of Britain will be able to defend his title, even though he could not compete in the British championships.

"We have to continue to help the athletic movement as much as possible," Reineri said. "To have these great athletes competing in Athens will provide great media attention from the US and will build the profile of the sport worldwide."

In addition to the defending champion, each country will still be able to enter three athletes in each event. This change is also a first as the IAAF originally adopted its entry requirements from the International Olympic Committee's requirements for the Olympics.

The change is aimed at allowing countries to excel in the events in which they are strongest.



Michael Johnson (Reuters)

Jan Ullrich (Reuters)

Ullrich takes over Tour lead

ARCALIS, Andorra (AP) - German Jan Ullrich made a determined bid up the final mountain to win the 10th stage of the Tour de France yesterday and take over the leader's yellow jersey.

Ullrich won the stage from Luchon, France to Arcalis, Andorra by more than a minute over Marco Pantani of Italy and Richard Virenque. The leg had six major climbs and lasted more than 7 hours, 46 minutes.

On the final mountain to the finish, more than 2,200 meters (7,200 feet) Ullrich made his move. He broke away from a small group and went on to win, leaving behind, among others, his Telekom teammate and last year's winner, Bjarne Riis.

Riis ended up 3:22 behind Ullrich. Now the emphasis will be on Riis's shoulders to work for his teammate instead of Ullrich working for him, as it was since the beginning of the Tour.

Cedric Vasseur of France, who had been in the lead for the last few days, came in almost eight minutes behind and lost the overall lead to Ullrich.

Ullrich now has a 2:38 lead over Virenque. Abraham Olano is third.

The Tour now comes down from the mountains before a rest day tomorrow in St. Etienne and an important time trial there on Friday.

The 23-year-old Ullrich now can be considered the favorite for the Tour that ends in Paris July 27. He was second behind Riis last year and won the last long time trial in last year's Tour beating Miguel Indurain by almost a minute.

Casarelli remembered

Less than two hours into the 10th stage, the riders slowed down and came to a stop. They were in front of a monument to Fabio Casarelli, who died two years ago.

Casarelli, the 1992 Olympic road racing champion, failed to negotiate a steep curve during the descent from the Col de Portet d'Aspet in the Pyrenees on July 18, 1995. The 24-year-old Italian rider of the American team Motorola was one of several riders who crashed hard on his head.

Unconscious, he was taken by helicopter to a hospital in Tarbes, where he was pronounced dead 30 minutes later.

Now, a monument to Casarelli is in the place.



Jan Ullrich (Reuters)

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London Calling

You can see the Woods for free

By Mark Rivlin

It's British Open time again - the 126th will be fought out at Troon from tomorrow and you can be sure that there will be hordes of admiring fans squeezing into the galleries and fairways to watch the likes of Tiger Woods, Colin Montgomerie and Greg Norman battling for the £250,000 first prize.

fans of the game? According to a revealing article in Sunday's Observer, darts is "sexy and glamorous" and is moving away from the pub image which had characterized it since it first hit the screens in 1973.

Bosox 21-hit attack routs Tigers

BOSTON (AP) - Wilfredo Cordero homered as the Boston Red Sox banged out a season-high 21 hits Monday night and routed the Detroit Tigers 18-4.



COLLISION - Angels' Tim Salmon (r) knocks out of Rangers' Ivan Rodriguez's glove to score in second-inning action. Anaheim won 6-5.

Cordero was cheered when he hit a two-run homer in the five-run seventh. Cordero, accused of assaulting his wife June 11, had been booed on each of his previous 14 at-bats since he ended 11 games on the sidelines with a pinch-hit appearance last Thursday.

Boston, which scored its most runs since getting 22 at Kansas City in April 1994, had a season-high eight doubles and scored in six of the first seven innings.

Jeff Suppan (3-0) struck out a career-high eight, allowing four runs and four hits in six innings. Kevin Jarvis (0-1) gave up seven runs - five earned - and nine hits in 4 1/2 innings.

Orioles 9, Blue Jays 5 Host Baltimore snapped a six-game losing streak, scoring six runs in the seventh.

Brady Anderson, BJ Surhoff and Geronimo Berroa homered for the Orioles, who had been winless since July 4. Baltimore had lost 10 of 15, beginning with four straight at home against Toronto.

Carlos Garcia and Carlos Delgado homered for the Blue Jays, who had won three straight and were bidding to reach .500 for the first time since June 1.

Terry Mathews (2-1) pitched 1 1/2 innings in relief of Scott Kamieniecki. Robert Person (3-6) was the loser.

Indians 3, Yankees 2 Marquis Grissom homered on an 0-2 pitch from Mariano Rivera (2-3) with one out in the top of the 10th inning.

Grissom had three hits and Matt Williams homered and tripled for the Indians, who won their fourth straight.

Twins 5, White Sox 3 Ron Coomer hit a go-ahead double in the sixth as host Minnesota overcame Albert Belle's 20th homer.

With the score 3-1 in the sixth, Scott Stahowiak and Coomer hit consecutive doubles that chased Doug Drabek (6-7), who allowed four runs and six hits in 5 1/2 innings.

Royals 2, Brewers 1 Kansas City stopped its longest losing streak at 12 when Scott Cooper singled home the winning run in the bottom of the 14th.

Doug Jones (3-4) hit Mike Macfarlane with a pitch with one out in the 14th and Johnny Damon advanced Macfarlane to second with a single. Cooper then singled up the middle through the legs of shortstop Jose Valentin.

Angels 6, Rangers 5 Dave Hollins hit a bases-

loaded, two-run double with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning off beleaguered Texas closer John Wetteland, giving Anaheim its season-high seventh straight victory.

Martiners 6, Athletics 2 Rich Amaral and Jay Buhner hit rich-inning homers and Bob Wolcott pitched seven strong innings as host Oakland fell to its fifth straight loss.

Amaral hit his first homer of the year on the fourth pitch of the game from Steve Wojciechowski (0-1), making his first major league appearance of the season. Buhner hit a two-run homer, his 24th, two outs later.

Oakland's Mark McGwire, who leads the majors with 31 homers, went 1-for-4, and is 2-for-15 since the All-Star break.

Seattle's Ken Griffey Jr. was 2-for-5, ending an 0-for-17 drought. He has 30 homers.

NATIONAL LEAGUE Pirates 5, Mets 4 Pittsburgh pulled off the comeback this time, rallying three times before Jason Kendall's RBI double in the eighth inning gave them

a home victory. The Mets had won six of seven, all after trailing, and had rallied from a 6-0 deficit the night before to win 7-6 in 10 innings in Atlanta. They also had won six of their first seven against the Pirates.

But the NL Central-leading Pirates, who have not lost since Francisco Cordova and Ricardo Rincon pitched a 10-inning no-hitter Saturday night over Houston, rallied with four consecutive hits off Greg McMichael (6-7) and Cory Lidle in the eighth to win it - their 10th victory in 12 games.

Reds 4, Cardinals 2 Host Cincinnati scored three runs because of Fernando Valenzuela's wildness, and Eddie Taubensee had an RBI pinch double.

Keot Mercker (7-6) survived solo homers by Gary Gaetti and Ray Lankford to help the Reds beat the Cardinals for only the third time in eight games.

Gaetti homered for the fifth time in five games and Lankford added his second homer in two games, but St. Louis couldn't overcome another poor start by Valenzuela (2-12), who leads the major leagues in losses.

The left-hander gave up two hits, walked six and hit a batter in 2 1/2 innings, matching his shortest outing of the season.

Braves 10, Phillies 6 Host Atlanta hit two grand slams in a game for the first time since 1987, using the homers by Tim Lincecum and Ryan Klesko to rally from a 6-0 deficit for its eighth straight victory over Philadelphia this season.

Spehr, called up from Triple-A Richmond on Saturday, homered into the left-field stands in the fifth inning to pull the Braves within 6-5.

Martins 5, Expos 4 Jim Eisenreich singled home the

winning run in the bottom of the 12th inning with his third hit of the game as Florida rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Montreal. Bobby Bonilla hit a two-run

homer off Jeff Juden in the sixth to make it 4-2, and Mark Kotsay and Eisenreich tied it in the seventh with RBI groundouts off Dave Veres.

Table with columns for American League and National League batting statistics, including names, teams, and various performance metrics.

Table with columns for National League and American League team statistics, including wins, losses, percentages, and games behind.

Monday's AL results: Boston 18, Detroit 4; Baltimore 9, Toronto 5; Cleveland 3, NY 2 (10); Minnesota 5, Chicago 3; Kansas City 2, Milwaukee 1 (14); Seattle 6, Oakland 2; Anaheim 6, Texas 5.

Monday's NL results: Pittsburgh 5, NY 4; Cincinnati 4, St. Louis 2; Florida 5, Montreal 4 (12); Atlanta 10, Philadelphia 6; Houston 9, Chicago 7 (15).

Americans have historical edge at Troon

By BRIAN CREIGHTON

TROON, Scotland - If the last four British Opens played at Royal Troon are anything to go by, Americans will have an extra edge when the championship returns to the south west of Scotland course tomorrow.

The course opened in 1878 with only five holes and a discarded railway car as a clubhouse. But it was only another eight years before Troon had a full 18 holes and a proper clubhouse.

match his rival's achievement, leaving Havers to take the title and receive £75 (\$127) for his efforts. This year, by contrast, the champion will take home £250,000 (\$423,000).

played the front nine in 33 and the back in 35 for a 68 and a winning aggregate of 279. Palmer almost single-handedly resurrected the Open when he made his first visit in 1960, finishing second at St. Andrews.

ICC gives go-ahead for floodlights in Tests

LONDON (Reuters) - "Bad light stopped play" could soon become a phrase of the past with the go-ahead given on Monday for floodlights in Test cricket.

spectators when play is stopped because the light is between playable and unplayable. ICC chief executive David Richardson said: "Providing both countries agree before a Test series, artificial lighting may be turned on in conditions of adverse natural light to assist play to continue within the normal hours of play."

potential controversy over whether a fielder has taken a catch cleanly or not. Richardson said: "If the umpire at the bowler's end is uncertain as to whether the ball carried he will follow the normal practice of consulting the square leg umpire."

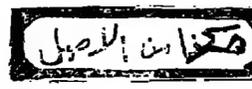
boards as "a matter of priority." He added: "The consensus is that each country should play no more than 10 to 12 Tests and 25 to 30 one-day internationals per annum.

brought on February 1 of a maximum of two bouncers an over has been a success. "It was confirmed as an on-going condition as regards to Test cricket."

Wembley Stadium's Twin Towers could be demolished

LONDON (Reuters) - Wembley Stadium's Twin Towers, one of the most famous landmarks in world sport, could be demolished when the stadium is re-built, according to a report in The Mail on Sunday.

The newspaper quotes from what it calls a secret document which considers knocking down the Twin Towers and relocating the pitch from its current east-west orientation to north-south. Doing that would eradicate the mid-afternoon shadow that falls across the pitch and tends to affect television coverage of events like the FA Cup Final.



CRITICS' CHOICE

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

Mila de Vargas is one of the greatest Spanish dancers in the world. She's on stage with the other stars of the Spanish National Ballet, and they're no slouches either. SNB presents Medea, Balero, Donza y ironia and either Zapateado or Chacona. Tonight and through Thursday at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center at 8:30 p.m.

EXHIBITION

HELEN KAYE

The Eretz Yisrael Museum has an exhibition of early ceramics from Cyprus. The ceramics in the exhibition, which is also sponsored by the Nicosia Museum, date from around 2000 BCE to about 480 BCE. They fall into different categories: votive statues and statuettes, practical ceramics - from the large amphorae used for storage to everyday plates and bowls - and miniature statues probably used in rituals. The exhibition opened yesterday and runs through December 2.

KLEZMER

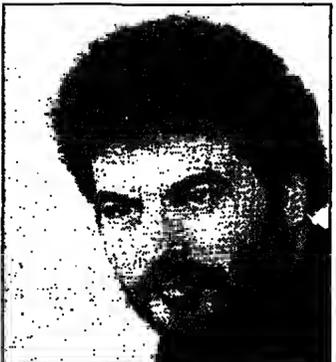
HELEN KAYE

It's the last day for the Safed Klezmer Festival and it ends with tenor Dudu Fisher singing Jewish soul music at the Ygal Alon Hall at 9 p.m., while at the Seraya it'll be flutist Izzat Zobar with the inimitable, delightful Dan Almagor and Once There Was a Hasid. Tough choice. There are also lots of free events on the five stages around the old city, including Moussa Berlin and Sulam at the Ma'ayan Radum at 8:30 p.m. It's fun. There are shuttle buses from the parking lots outside the city every few minutes; activities are from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

JERUSALEM FILM FESTIVAL

ADINA HOFFMAN

The winner of this year's Best First Feature Prize at the Venice Film Festival, Elia Suleiman's Chronicle of a Disappearance is indeed a remarkable debut for the Nazareth-born director. The movie is a Palestinian-Israeli-European Unio coproduction that navigates between diaristic glimpses of the filmmaker's daily life, black-comic bits that may or may not have been staged



Tenor Dudu Fisher sings at the Safed Klezmer Festival tonight. (Sami Farag)

for the camera, and a more expansive, absurd view of the never-ending local political strife. Far from being a sanctimonious piece of topical hair-tugging, though, Chronicle is often funny in a painful way, and is perhaps most notable for the disparate styles and tones that it manages to combine. In places, the writer/director/star adopts the self-deprecating, essayistic tack that Naoi Moretti took in his Dear Diary. Sometimes the action appears borrowed directly from the Keystone Cops and, at others, it's pure Beckett. (Suleiman's own demeanor is oddly reminiscent of Buster Keaton's: not only does he share the actor's heavy-lidded eyes, soft lips and quizzical brow, he also never speaks.)

The film has the colorfully flat, static look of a comic strip, but Suleiman's patient timing and his ability to let a visual joke stand without fuss or fanfare give the movie a calmer, deeper and ultimately more profound slant than any cartoon, political or otherwise. (CineMathque 3, 2 p.m.)

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Tonight is your last opportunity to enjoy The New Moscow Opera's Rossini evening, comprising excerpts from some of the Italian composer's most beloved operas. At the Hailan Auditorium, 8:30.

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8:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

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18:05 Touched by an Angel
19:25 Spin City
20:00 News
20:20 Wheel of Fortune
20:30 Backwards
20:31 NYFD
20:32 Caroline in the City
20:38 Casino (1980) - the owner of a high-class hotel and casino

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's programs
6:30 Rainbow
7:00 This Morning
9:00 Rivka Michaeli
9:55 Senora
10:45 Treasure Island
11:40 Enchanted
12:05 The 15th Maccabiah and the Captain
13:00 Platfus
13:30 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
14:00 Degraasi Junior
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 Ich and Mitch
15:28 Madison
16:10 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshel
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10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt)

11:15 Zingara (rpt)
12:00 Barnaby Jones
12:45 The Streets of San Francisco
13:35 Wings
14:00 Dallas
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:00 The Warrior Princess
16:30 Zingara
17:15 One Life to Live
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Fines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:45 Sunset Beach
20:30 Newsradio
20:55 Melrose Place
21:40Profiler
22:30 Love Story
22:50 Seinfeld - reruns
23:25 Babylon 5
00:15 The Streets of San Francisco
1:05 Barnaby Jones

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 For the Love of Auro (rpt)
13:00 New in the Cinema
13:15 Seeing Stars
13:45 Dances in December (1986) - an English widow falls in love with a senior citizen
15:00 The Young and the Restless
15:35 New in the Cinema
15:55 Ready Pursuits (1995) (rpt)
17:25 Acts of Contrition (1995) (rpt)
18:50 New in the Cinema
19:00 The Skipper (Hebrew, 1988) - comic Kramer vs. Kramer style film about a woman who marries a rabbi
19:30 Home Show (1993) (rpt)
19:45 The bizzare tale of two brothers who share the ability to make things burst into flames
20:15 Dennis Quaid and Debra Winger
20:55 White Milla (1994) - a group of advertising executives go rafting and must fight for survival
With Alan Alda
1:30 Four Weddings and a Funeral (1994) - romantic comedy with Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell (rpt)

CHILDREN (6)

8:30 Cartoons
9:05 Care Bears Family
9:40 Dennis the Menace
10:20 The New Ending Story
10:50 Space Strikers
11:15 The Baby Huey Show
12:00 Children's Olympics
12:25 Wonder Science
13:00 Batman
13:30 Hugo
14:10 Dennis the Menace
14:50 Never Ending Story
15:20 Space Strikers
15:45 The Baby Huey Show
16:20 Hercules (Hebrew dialogue)
16:20 Children's Olympics
16:55 Weird Science
17:30 Chiquititas
18:15 Pink Panther Show

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Fines
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sivas (rpt)
8:00 Dallas (rpt)
8:00 One Life to Live
8:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)

CHANNEL 8

6



Spirits are high as first-time air travellers prepare for takeoff.

(Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

Swiss Air promo gives children a special lift

By JONATHAN TEPPERMAN

Few adults get excited any more at the thought of boarding a plane.

The same cannot be said, however, for the young passengers of Swiss Air flight 2050, who spent an hour yesterday touring Israel's airspace.

As part of a promotion to celebrate its 50th year of operation here, Swiss Air treated 180 disadvantaged children to a free trip around the country.

Waiting for the jet to take off, 15-year-old Dina Dan admitted that she was nervous to be flying

for the first time. But she was sure she'd like it. "I want to try parachuting next," she said.

Leaving from Ben-Gurion Airport, the plane first flew east, circled Jerusalem, cut south across the Negev to Masada, and then headed north for a brief jaunt around the Galilee before returning to Lod.

As the tires touched down after 50 minutes in the air, those on board clapped, whistled and cheered.

The passengers ranged in age from 10 to 16, and included new immigrants, cancer patients from Schneider Hospital, and

underprivileged children from all over the country. There were Arabs and Jews, Ethiopians, Sephardim and Ashkenazim. Most had never seen the inside of a plane before.

"This is pretty cool," said Ayal Beer, summing up the mood. "Everything looks different from up here."

Clutching his camera, the 13-year-old Beer declared that, while he'd traveled all over Israel on the ground, this was completely new for him. He looked out the window and said he was glad he'd had the chance to see it.

Katyusha falls in western Galilee

No injuries or damage as rocket lands in field

By DAVID RUDGE

Tension remained high along the northern border yesterday after at least one Katyusha fell in western Galilee and two residents of the security zone were wounded.

Hizhullah said the rocket attacks, directed at IDF positions along the border, were in response to what it described as Israel's recent breaches of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

This followed exchanges on Monday in which a woman and her son were killed and the women's daughter was wounded by IDF or South Lebanese Army shelling while they were working in fields near Berti village, east of Sidon.

The monitoring committee established to supervise the understandings that ended last April's cross-border fighting is to convene at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura today to discuss complaints by Lebanon and Israel over recent infringements.

Yesterday's rocket attack was the third by Hizhullah on IDF positions along Israel's northern border in the past two weeks.

On the previous two occasions, at least one rocket and one

mortar fell inside Israeli territory.

In the incident yesterday, a single rocket exploded in open fields not far from a farming community.

"I heard a number of booms about 150 meters away," said David, a farmer in the area.

"The children were away and only my wife and I were home when the blasts occurred. They were close, but far enough away not to cause any damage," he said.

Although it was the second time in just over a week that rockets or mortars had fallen near his community, David said the situation was calm.

"From the military aspect there might be an increase in tension, but we on the civilian side are not feeling it, at least for the time being," he said.

Hizhullah leaders had warned that the organization would respond with Katyushas in the event of any more civilian casualties as a result of IDF or SLA shelling.

The warnings followed incidents last week in which a 70-year-old farmer, who is a resident of the security zone, was accidentally killed by Israeli tank fire.

On another occasion, homes

were damaged in villages north of the zone.

One of the IDF's problems is Hizhullah's use of villages north of the zone as cover for its mortar and anti-tank missile crews, in breach of the understandings reached last April.

The IDF maintains that it is merely acting in self defense by directing its fire at the source of the Hizhullah attacks.

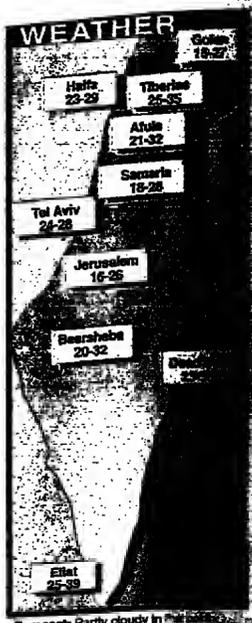
Military sources stressed yesterday that the IDF is doing everything possible to avoid harming civilians, while Hizhullah continues to violate the understandings.

During the exchanges yesterday, Hizhullah rockets and anti-tank missiles hit Demuchkiyeh village, northwest of Marjayoun, inside the security zone.

Two local residents were lightly wounded and property was damaged as a result of the Hizhullah fire.

The fighting died down later in the afternoon, to be replaced by a tense quiet.

Lebanese observers said it appeared likely that Hizhullah would wait for the outcome of the monitoring group's deliberations before deciding on any further action, although the situation was described as "very fragile."



Forecast: Partly cloudy in the north. Clear in the south.

Table titled 'AROUND THE WORLD' showing weather forecasts for various international cities including Amsterdam, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Chicago, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Geneva, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Jakarta, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Montreal, Moscow, New York, Nice, Paris, Rome, Stockholm, Sydney, Toronto, and Zurich.

Haim Yavin moves to Channel 2

By HELEN KAYE

Veteran Channel 1 *Mabar* night news anchor Haim Yavin is moving to Keshet, a Channel 2 franchise which he will be the creative force behind, and is to present a 60 Minutes-style weekly news magazine. He starts there September 1 and the new program is due to air at the end of December.

Professional fulfillment - not money - is behind the move. Yavin said at his press conference yesterday, pointing out, "I could safely have stayed in my present slot as *Mabar* anchor, but I preferred the challenge of creating a new magazine program. I consider that I have realized all my potential as a TV news journalist. I still see myself as a creative journalist and it's time to choose a new road."

He said that the decision to leave Channel 1 was extremely difficult and that he has parted on "exceedingly good terms with my old friend and colleague Motti



Haim Yavin (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

Kirschenbaum. I believe in the future of public broadcasting. It's necessary and essential, but that doesn't mean I have to stay there."

Yavin, who won the Israel Prize this year for his contribution to broadcast journalism, was one of the founding members of ITV in

1968 and has been its chief news anchor since then.

He also has made 65 full-length documentary films, all the result of hard-hitting investigative journalism. The most recent was a four part series called *The Third Israel* depicting the plight and problems of foreign workers here.

The die was cast when Channel 1 told him that it no longer had the budget to fund his investigative documentary film-making, he said. Yavin expects that his new program will go in that direction.

Keshet general manager Uri Shinar said that hiring Yavin, "a man any TV station in the world would be proud to acknowledge," was a watershed for Keshet.

He added that in his move from public to private TV the veteran broadcaster "will have complete editorial freedom. The Keshet stockholders have never interfered in programming and never will."

Mabar producer Rafik Halaby said yesterday that Yavin and the program were parting as friends.

Winning cards and numbers

In last night's lottery, the winning numbers were 7, 30, 37, 44, 47 and 48. The additional number was 34.

The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance draw were the ten of spades, king of hearts, eight of diamonds and seven of clubs. The results of the second draw were the jack of spades, eight of hearts, queen of diamonds and eight of clubs.

Motivation for reserve duty up - IDF

By LIAT COLLINS

Changes in reserve duty are proving effective in boosting motivation to serve.

A day after Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen outlined his bill to ease the burden on reservists, the head of the IDF Manpower Division, Maj.-Gen. Gideon Sheffer, and deputy head of the Operations Branch, Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, yesterday briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on what has been done over the past year.

Ashkenazi headed a committee that was set up because it was felt that motivation to serve has been dropping, the burden of reserve duty has not been equally distributed, and reservists are not sufficiently prepared for their service.

Several improvements have already been made in view of the committee's findings.

These include the appointment of liaison officers from among the permanent forces rather than regular soldiers; better training before operational activities; improved equipment; better infrastructure in bases and outposts; an attempt to ensure that soldiers are used in areas for which they have been trained; the use of regular soldiers as drivers; and a decision to call up brigades as one unit rather than splitting them up.

The result, according to the briefing, has been a rise in the number of reserve soldiers willing to serve; a drop in the average length of service from 21 days to 14; a 5 percent drop in the number asking to get out of reserve duty on health grounds; a 25 percent drop in those seeking to dodge service for economic reasons; and a 9 percent drop in the number of those absent without leave.

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee is continuing to discuss ways of compensating reserve soldiers, including income tax reductions and education grants.

Bezeq strike enters third day

By JUDY SIEGEL

The strike by Bezeq workers enters its third day today. They are protesting the government's failure to inform them that Merrill-Lynch had purchased 12.5 percent of the company's shares. All repair, installation and information services have been shut down, and Bezeq public-reception offices are closed.

Bezeq workers' union chairman Shlomo Kfir appeared before the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday and declared that he and his fellow workers "have completely lost faith" in all promises made by government and company representatives. "We don't believe anyone anymore," said Kfir.

The union's conditions for ending the strike include cancellation of the Merrill-Lynch deal, the use of the money from the deal to establish a fund for workers receiving early pensions, or state guarantees to the same effect. Kfir said that with 24% of Bezeq already in private hands and 12.5% more going to Merrill-Lynch, only 12.5% remains before state ownership of the company reaches the 51% minimum set by the government. This, he notes, does not leave much leeway for the workers, who also want to purchase stock.

Kfir claimed that the stock sale "does not reflect the company's commitment to ensuring the pension and compensation rights of workers."

Bezeq director-general Ami Erel said he also had not known about the Merrill-Lynch deal in advance. Nevertheless, he did not justify the strike, and called on staffers to return to work.

The official Car Rental Company of the 15th Maccabiah expresses their sorrow regarding the disaster that occurred on the 15th Maccabiah opening ceremony, and offers their heart-felt condolences to the bereaved families and the delegations, the Maccabiah organizing committee & Executive Maccabi World Union. We wish a fast recovery to all those injured.



Advertisement for Hazorfim featuring an image of a silver chalice and text: 'A Timeless Art of Silver'. Includes contact information for various locations: Tel-Aviv, Bnei-Brak, Petah-Tikva, Jerusalem, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem, Netanya, Ra'anana, and Belgium.

Advertisement for Yosi Peking Glatt Kosher Chinese Restaurants with contact information for Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Ashdod.

